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LONDON NEWS

VICTORY 45



Summer 1995

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by Gary Michael
Bines.



German bomber brought down over Essex in the
Battle of Britain. An ILN cover in 1940.

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BULLDOG, HOPE AND GLORY

IN THE COURSE OF THREE MONTHS IN 1945 THE NATION CELEBRATED FIRST VE AND THEN VJ DAY, THE LONG AWAITED END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

When the Second World War finally ended, Britain, the only nation to have fought from the first day to the last, had been at war for six years. During that time 265,000 men and women of the British armed forces and 61,000 civilians had been killed, more had been wounded, and for everyone it had been a time of pain, struggle and hardship.

It was not surprising that when the end came it was met with a sense of huge relief and national celebration, first at the time of

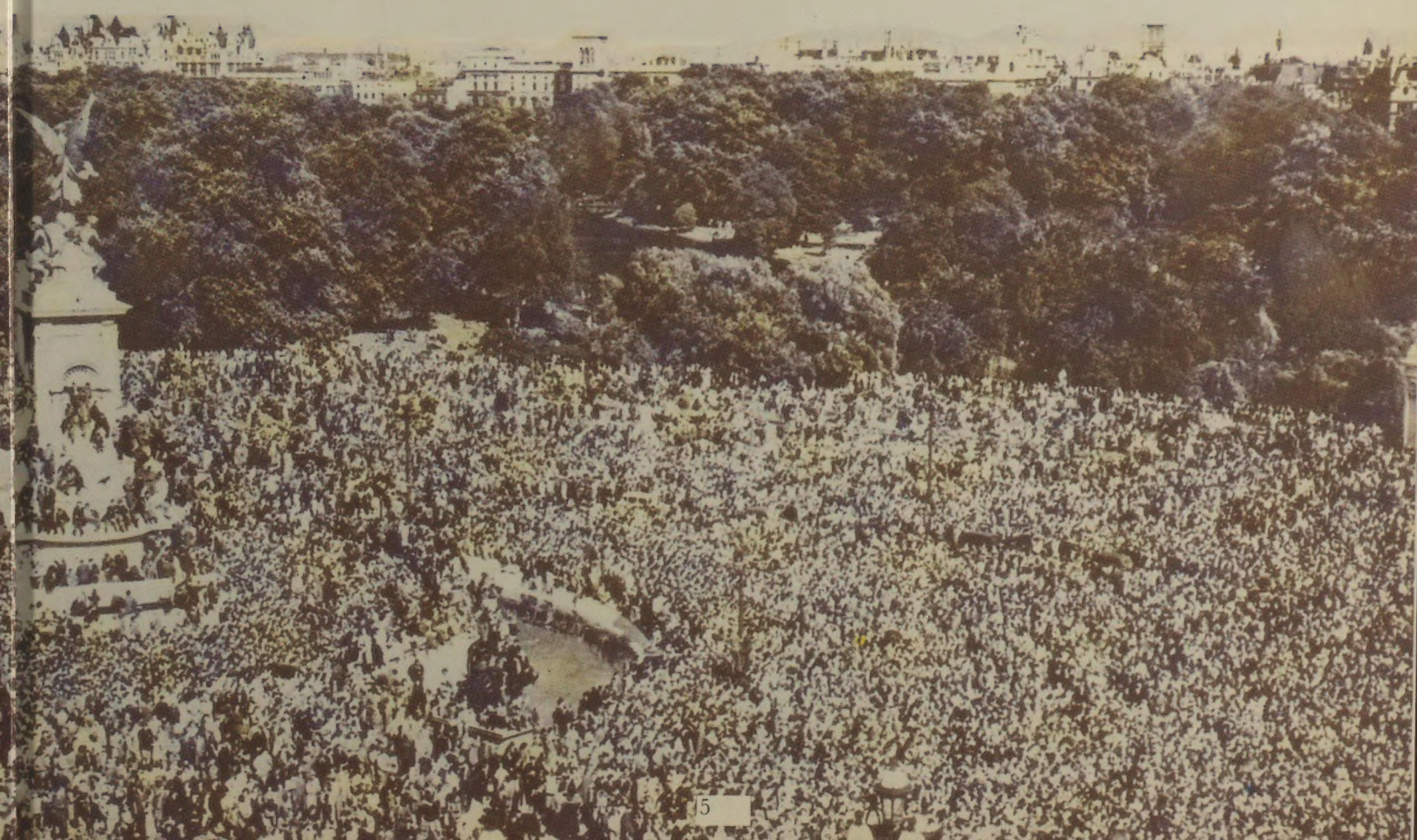
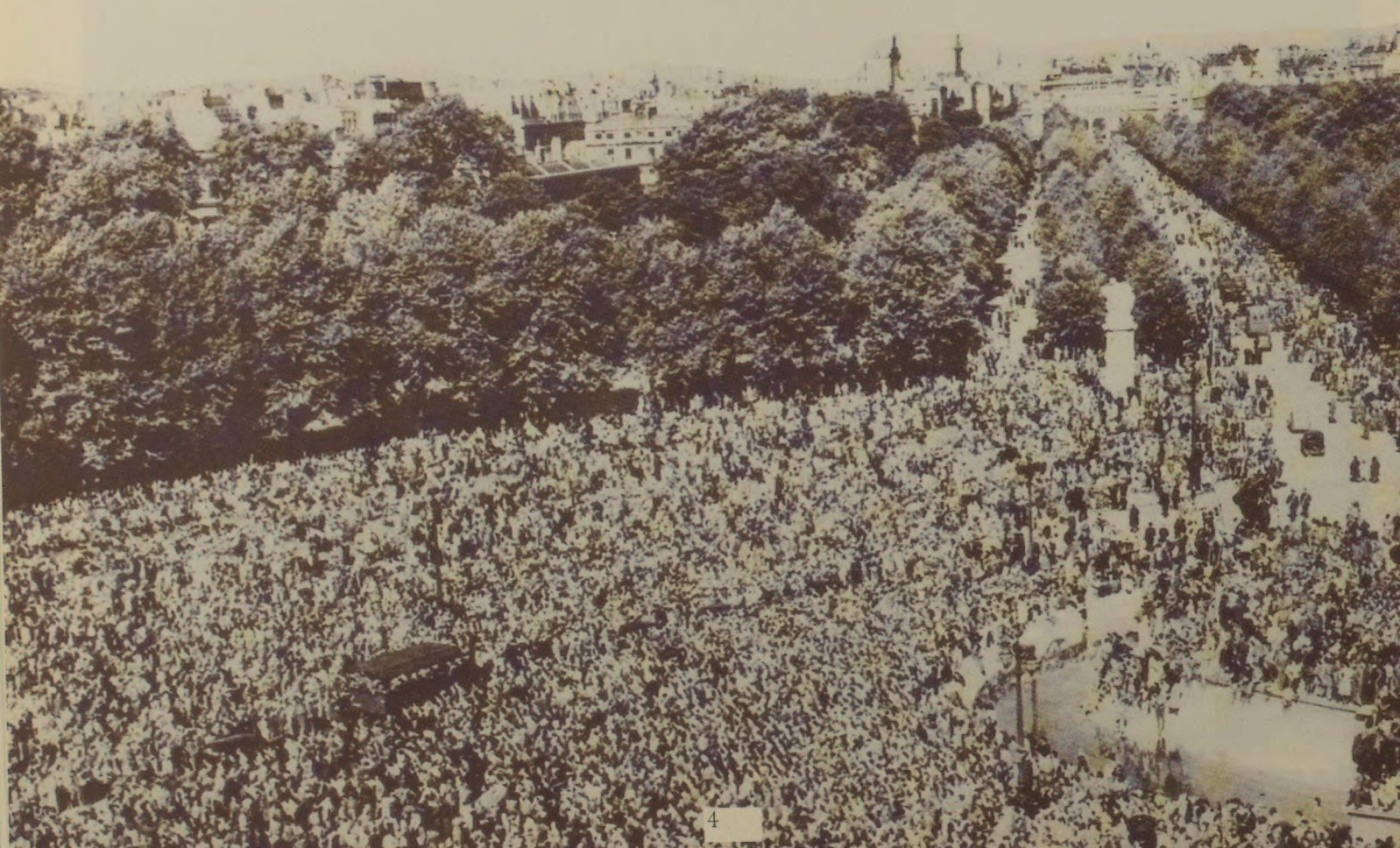
Germany's unconditional surrender in May, 1945, and again in August when Japan also capitulated. In both cases the actual end was a bit of a muddle.

Victory in Europe was officially celebrated on May 8, VE-Day, but many people had got the flags out, together with any drink or special food that had been saved for the occasion, a few days earlier. It became known on May 1 that Adolf Hitler, the German Führer, had killed himself. Then on the following day it was



ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS PICTURE LIBRARY

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS





VE-Day crowds in Piccadilly Circus, top, were entertained by the US Rainbow Club's orchestra. Above, Raymond Glendenning interviewing for the BBC Home Service and, right, the Navy makes itself at home in the fountains of Trafalgar Square.





ABOVE, CAMERA PRESS

announced that the German forces in Italy had surrendered, and later the same evening that Berlin had been taken by the Russians.

An announcement of the formal ending of the war in Europe was expected at any moment, but after five days it had not come because, as was revealed later, Britain had agreed with our American and Russian allies that the official announcement would not be made until it was convenient to them. By Monday, May 7, crowds were assembling in Piccadilly and Trafalgar Square in London, and particularly around Buckingham Palace, but still no official bulletin was issued and at 6pm it was announced that the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, would not be broadcasting that night. Then, within a couple of hours, came an announcement that the next day would be celebrated as Victory in Europe Day and it would be a national holiday, as would May

Winston Churchill responds to the cheering crowds from the balcony of the Ministry of Health building in Whitehall. Left, an avalanche of paper showered by office staff from windows in the West End of London.

9. Churchill, who later recorded that the surrender of our enemies "was the signal for the greatest outburst of joy in the history of mankind", broadcast at 3pm on May 8, when he confirmed that the surrender document had been signed at 2.41 am on May 7. After making his broadcast Churchill addressed the House of Commons and then, with other MPs, went to St Margaret's, Westminster, where a service of thanksgiving was held. Later, on the balcony outside the Ministry of Health in Whitehall, he was greeted by a huge crowd singing "For he's a jolly good fellow".

VE-Day was celebrated all over the country with street parties, at which people ate and drank whatever they could get



ABOVE, TOPHAM





their hands on, singing and dancing most of the night away. Church bells rang and lights were put on, pianos and radiograms were dragged into the streets, there were bonfires in the fields and in the parks, many of them stoked by members of the National Fire Service, and searchlights criss-crossed the sky.

In London huge crowds waited patiently outside Buckingham Palace, and yelled their heads off when the King and Queen, with the two princesses, came out on the balcony. Even the Board of Trade had tried to match the national mood by announcing that until the end of May people could buy cotton bunting without coupons, provided that it was red, white or blue.

Celebration of final victory, on September 2, was a more muted affair, partly perhaps because the revelry lacked the spontaneity of

Opposite page, top, a victory party at a school in Camberwell, London; bottom, the Queen on a tour of the victory celebrations in Bethnal Green. Above, knees up at Charlton Medlock, Lancashire, and, right, crowds singing and dancing in Leicester Square.

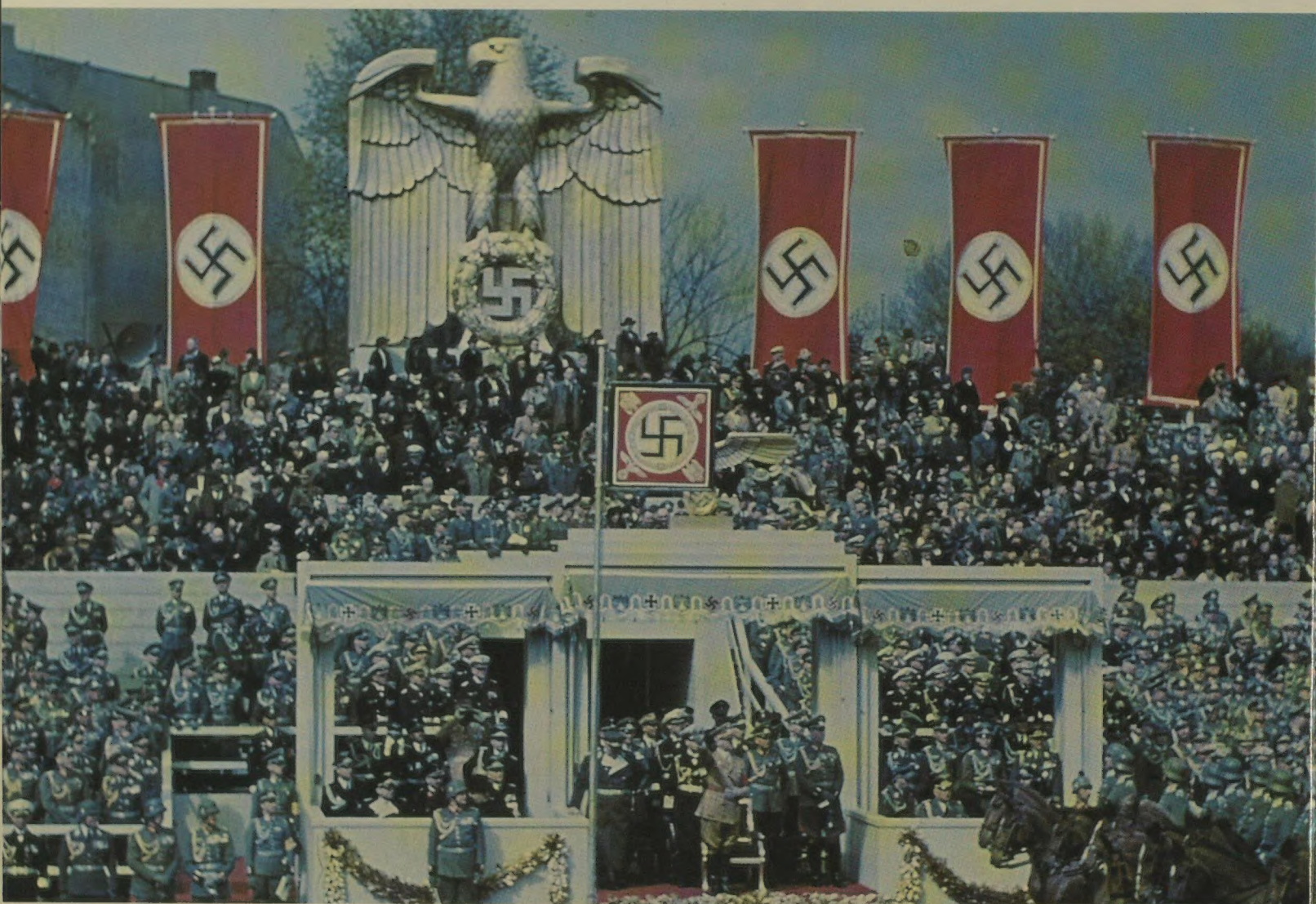
VE-Day, but more probably because it had now been recognised that, though the victors, Britons still faced years of rationing and other hardships and were confronted by what the Treasury described as a financial Dunkirk, and because of the sudden shock provided by the atomic bombs that finally brought the war to an end. But though "weary and worn", as Churchill wrote, "impoverished but undaunted and now triumphant", the British people "had a moment that was sublime". That moment is what, 50 years later, we now commemorate.



HULTON DEUTSCH

HOW WAR CAME

WAR BECAME INEVITABLE WHEN A COMPLACENT EUROPE FAILED TO RESPOND TO HITLER'S RISE TO POWER, EARLY MILITARY EXPANSION AND HIS OVERTHROW OF GERMANY'S DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.



The seeds of the Second World War were sown in 1919 at the Treaty of Versailles, which had formally brought the First World War to an end. The treaty was a compromise between conciliation and punishment, and proved unworkable. It left Germany with a sense of grievance which opened the way for the rise of Adolf Hitler and the collapse of its democracy, and because the terms of the treaty seemed unjust it enabled the Germans to undermine it without serious international response. This applied both to the treaty's

provisions for the division of central Europe and to its restrictions on any attempted rearmament by the Germans. There was no opposition in 1936 to Hitler's reoccupation of the demilitarised Rhineland, the general reaction being summed up in the comment of the time that it was not really aggressive for the Germans to walk into their own backyard. This was the policy of appeasement, as it came to be known, justified at the time by the hope that Germany would be satisfied now that the most obvious cause of its discontent had been removed.

The hope was forlorn. Had

France and Britain responded with determination there seems little doubt now that Hitler would have had to withdraw. At that time he had not the military strength to back up his bluff. He declared that the occupation was purely symbolic and, as was subsequently learnt, had already informed his high command that he would withdraw if there was any opposition. There was none, and as a result Hitler greatly increased his prestige and authority at home, and broadened his ambitions.

Some Britons were now becoming aware that forceful

means of realising these ambitions were already in preparation. In 1936 Winston Churchill, who had been minister for munitions in the First World War and chancellor of the Exchequer from 1924 until 1929, since when he had been out of office, had discovered that the Germans were spending £1,000 million a year on armaments. When challenged by Churchill in the House of Commons, Neville Chamberlain, who was then chancellor of the Exchequer, said that though the government had no official figures he did not think Churchill's estimate was exces-

sive. Churchill then took a deputation of Privy counsellors to the Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, who did not dispute the seriousness of the situation but said that great efforts were being made to recover lost ground. The fact remained, as Churchill subsequently noted, that at the end of 1936 Germany was ahead of Britain in air power and in munitions production, and nothing could now prevent the German army and air force from becoming the strongest in Europe.

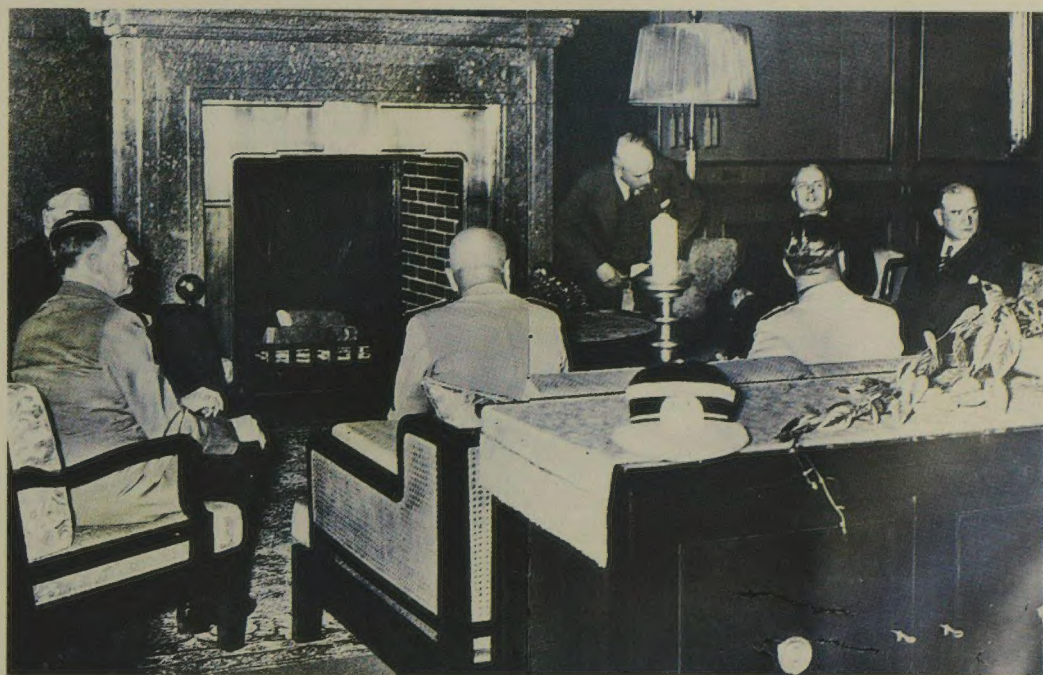
This situation must have encouraged Hitler to make his next moves, as well as influencing the reactions of Britain and France. In 1938 Germany annexed Austria, after which Britain and France agreed to the cession of the Czech Sudetenland to Germany in the hope of preventing an invasion of the whole of Czechoslovakia. Chamberlain, who had succeeded Baldwin as Prime Minister in 1937, made three trips to see Hitler in attempts to finalise agreement on Czechoslovakia and to preserve peace, the third being to Munich in September, 1938, where it was agreed (without consulting with the Czechoslovak government) that the Sudetenland was to be evacuated within 10 days. While he was there Chamberlain had a private talk with Hitler and got him to sign a declaration, which he had already drafted and which was the small white paper he waved on his return to Britain. The declaration read:

"We, the German Führer and Chancellor, and the British Prime Minister, have had a further meeting today, and are agreed in recognising that the question of Anglo-German relations is of the first importance for the two countries and for Europe.

"We regard the Agreement signed last night, and the Anglo-German Naval Agreement, as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again.

"We are resolved that the method of consultation shall be the method adopted to deal with any other questions that may concern our two countries, and we are determined to continue our efforts to remove possible sources of difference, and thus to contribute to assure the peace of Europe."

When he returned to England Chamberlain said that this was "the second time in our history that there has come back from Germany to Downing Street peace with honour. I believe it is peace for our time." The declara-



tion clearly did not have the same significance for Hitler. At Munich he had said that the Sudetenland was the last territorial claim he had to make in Europe, but within less than six months, following a declaration of independence by Slovakia, he had marched into Prague and placed Czechoslovakia under German administration. The British government declared that it was not possible to fulfil its guarantee to a state that no longer existed, but the shock of Hitler's aggression speeded preparations for war, and for the defence of Britain, while in

mainland Europe attention turned to Poland. With the reluctant support of France, Britain guaranteed the integrity of Poland, and sought also to get some support from or agreement with the Soviet Union.

This hope was ditched by the signing of a non-aggression pact between Germany and Russia on August 23, and German troops began massing on the Polish border. In Britain it was assumed that war had become inevitable, and as the Germans began to attack Poland on September 1 general mobilisation of all British forces was ordered. At the same

Hitler visibly built up national fervour with huge rallies, left, while agreeing at Munich, above, to sign an apparent declaration of peace with British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

time an ultimatum was sent to Germany, followed by a second and final ultimatum on the morning of September 3, demanding the withdrawal of German troops from Poland. The final ultimatum expired at 11am, and 15 minutes later Chamberlain broadcast to the nation to say that as no response had been received, Britain was at war with Germany.



General Franco's forces seized control of Madrid in March to bring the Spanish Civil War to an end. Left, nationalist officials salute from a former government building in the Spanish capital.

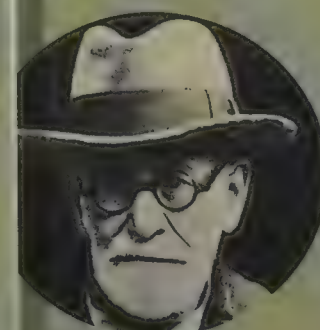
Troops of the British Expeditionary Force, right, marched into the fortified Maginot Line in November. Far right, a patriotic French scarf depicting Allied troops hanging out their washing on the Siegfried Line.



Blackout descended on Britain when war broke out, and helpful cards, right, were issued by the government, while in London the evacuation of children began.



For Britain the year ended with the good news that the German battleship *Admiral Graf Spee* had been scuttled in Montevideo.



Left, Sigmund Freud, Austrian pioneer of psychoanalysis, died at his home in Hampstead on September 23.



Right, jewel from the Anglo-Saxon ship burial excavated at Sutton Hoo in 1939.

1939

Daily Herald
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1939
ONE PENNY

WAR DECLARED BY BRITAIN AND FRANCE

The Fleet Moves Into Position

AT BRITAIN DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY AT 11 O'CLOCK YESTERDAY.

hours later, at 5 p.m., France declared war.

WAR CABINET OF NINE

Churchill Is Now First Lord

SAUSAGES GO BETTER WITH H-P SAUCE

Unthinkable We Should Refuse The Challenge

POLES SMASH INTO E. PR

OFFICIALS IN WARSAW STATED THAT GERMAN ARMY HAS SMASHED A WAY ACROSS EAST PRUSSIA AFTER DEFEATING THE GERMANS IN BITTER FIGHTING.

London Hears Its First Raid Warning

BREMEN REPORTED TAKEN

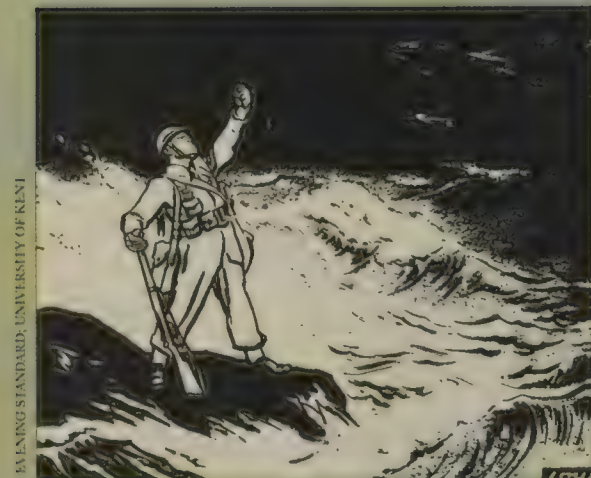
MODE CONGRU

Force dominated the events of 1939, even before war was declared on September 3. In March Czechoslovakia was invaded and occupied by German troops, and in the same month the Spanish Civil War ended, following the surrender of Madrid to General Franco. In April the Italians, under Benito Mussolini, invaded and conquered Albania. In August Adolf Hitler, having apparently protected his rear by signing a Non-Aggression Pact with Russia, began to move against Poland and, on September 1, launched his full-scale attack. Britain and France, having promised Poland all the support in their power, responded by declaring war against Germany two days later. In Britain the black-out came into force immediately and many children were evacuated from London and other cities in anticipation of an early blitzkrieg. A British Expeditionary Force of four divisions was sent to France within the month, all fit men aged between 18 and 41 were made liable for military service; National Identity Cards were introduced and petrol, restricted to one grade known as "Pool", was rationed. Russia attacked Finland (after three other Baltic states—Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania—had accepted Soviet military control), the aircraft-carrier *Courageous* was torpedoed, the battleship *Royal Oak* was sunk by a U-boat in Scapa Flow and the *Rawalpindi*, an armed merchant cruiser, was sunk after a gallant fight with two German battle-cruisers. Only in the last month of the year was there something for the British to cheer about, when the German pocket-battleship *Admiral Graf Spee* was chased into Montevideo harbour, where she was scuttled.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS PICTURE LIBRARY

BRITISH MUSEUM

1940



EVERETT COLLECTION

Low's cartoon, with its caption "Very well, alone", summed up the national mood of defiance which was personified by the new Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, sparked by the fall of France and the rescue of the British Army from Dunkirk, below, and fanned by the Blitz, top right, when many children slept in deep shelters, where they were visited by the Queen.



Britain faced imminent invasion following the fall of France, but was saved by the RAF. Above, a Hurricane, its engine on fire, brings down a Messerschmitt 110, a feat which won its injured pilot, James Nicolson, the VC. Right, Air Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, C-in-C Fighter Command.

Icy weather in early 1940 brought skaters out on the frozen Serpentine, left. War regulations caused the removal of all signposts, below left, while Local Defence Volunteers, later the Home Guard, prepared for invasion although often a target for humour, as in this cartoon by Edward Ardizzone.



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

AT HOME

BY TOM POCOCK

War did not take the British people by surprise in 1939 as it had in 1914. There had been six years of growing tension as the German and Italian dictators flouted world opinion in their pursuit of territorial expansion, and the Munich crisis of 1938 had provided a dress rehearsal for the real thing.

at Munich also gave Britain an extra year of open-throttle arms production, without which it might not have been able to withstand the assault to come.

It had been expected that war would open with massive air attacks: London destroyed by bombs and drenched with poison gas. Shelters were dug in parks and squares, and children were evacuated to the country. In 1938 some 38 million gas-masks had been issued—a year later gas-hoods were available for babies—and civilians were advised, but not compelled, to carry their respirators, though after the first alarm these were increasingly left at home. The only battles were at sea and in distant images from Poland seen on newsreels in crowded cinemas.

The unreality of what came to be called the “Phoney War” seemed to hypnotise the British. There appeared to be stalemate on the once familiar theatre of war, the Western front, and only a few enemy bombers ventured into British skies. In these months of unexpected anti-climax it seemed that the war, such as it was, might continue indefinitely until an economic blockade brought Germany to peace negotiations.

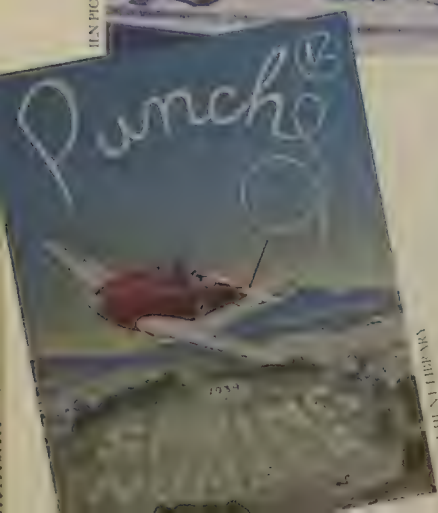
Then the Germans invaded Denmark and Norway in April, 1940—British intervention on the Norwegian coast was ignominiously abandoned—and in the following month they struck on the Western front, too. The British and French armies—the

Sandbags were piled high against public buildings such as this police station in London's East End, above, to minimise the effects of bomb blast, and trenches were dug as air-raid shelters in city parks. This one, right, was in St James's Park. Left, Punch in 1939 showed that the armed forces were not unprepared.



British industry was prepared for war. As early as 1936 motor manufacturing plants had been organised as “shadow” aircraft factories. In that year Sir Thomas Sopwith, the aircraft manufacturer, ordered production of 1,000 Hurricanes—the revolutionary new, eight-gun fighter—without waiting for Air Ministry approval, which quickly followed.

British industry had been drawing together in monopolies and this eased the transition to a war economy. British inventiveness was given its head, notably with the development and production of two critically important location devices: sonar (then called asdic) under water, and radar (then known as radio direction-finding) above the surface. Neville Chamberlain’s “betrayal” of the doomed Czechoslovaks





A mother and baby, above, wearing trial types of respirator. The baby is totally enclosed inside a gas-proof container. The final types issued were different from the versions shown. Left, cigarette cards gave advice on how to put on and adjust a gas mask.

latter behind their supposedly impregnable defences—were swept aside and within weeks the Germans had reached the Channel coast of France. The rescue of most of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk gave the nation an inspiring legend to strengthen its secret weapon, self-confidence. The British could not imagine themselves defeated.

Ruling a quarter of the world and commanding the seas, they had not understood the brutal efficiency of the German war machine that was about to be turned upon them. Delusion may have created high morale but high morale it was.

The whole nation—its population around 48 million—was involved and it was mobilised more effectively than any other. By 1944 the Army numbered 2,270,000 men; the Royal Navy 778,000; the RAF 1,002,000; and the part-time Home Guard

1,700,000. From 1943 young men were conscripted for the mines as well as for the armed forces, and women had been conscripted for “war work” since the end of 1941. Those working in the arms industry were also likely to be in the Home Guard, Civil Defence, or just taking their turn at “fire-watching” for incendiary bombs. The Home Guard—“Dad’s Army”—was indeed armed with shotguns and even pitchforks when it was formed as the Local Defence Volunteers in 1940, but during the next year, when Russia and the United States had become allies and the threat of invasion had passed, they seemed well armed with old American rifles and machine guns, though sometimes the latter had enough ammunition to fire for only 30 seconds. ▷ P 23



EVACUATION

Preparing for the expected mass bombing of British cities on the outbreak of war, the government planned the evacuation of children and civil servants. In addition, vast numbers of townsfolk would make their own arrangements to leave for less dangerous areas. The official plans were not solely humanitarian but dictated by the fear of panic and confusion when the bombing started.

The main evacuation began on September 1, 1939. The

cities’ railway stations were crowded with children, each one identified by a tie-on luggage label around the neck. Within three days about 1,500,000 evacuees were moved to safe areas. To this number were added some 2,000,000 people who took themselves to safety and tens of thousands of office workers and children at boarding schools, which were either in threatened areas or whose buildings were needed by the government to house its own evacuated staff.



September, when a third of the nation's population was on the move as mobilisation accompanied evacuation, saw a remarkable upheaval in British history, with lasting social consequences. Some children from city slums found themselves in an unimagined Arcady of the countryside, or in stately homes. The squirearchy and rural clergy found themselves responsible for crowds of bewildered and sometimes unruly, or unhealthy, children, who might never have seen a green field, or a cow.

But as the danger of immediate bombing did not materialise, many—about half the children of school age, most of the mothers with small children in the south and almost all in the north—drifted back to the cities. There was another exodus when the London Blitz began in 1940 and as each provincial city was bombed, or bombing seemed imminent, others began. The last major cause for evacuation in London was the day and night bombardment by V1 flying bombs and V2 rockets in 1944.

Children from Kentish Town in London at Euston Station on their way to the country. Although the main evacuation began in September, 1939, the children above were moved out by the London County Council during the 1938 crisis. Right, a government poster warns of the dangers of returning to the city.





BOMBING

The sirens wailed over London in the first of its 1,224 air-raid warnings immediately Neville Chamberlain had finished broadcasting the declaration of war, although that proved to be a false alarm. Attacks on London began a year later with a spectacular daylight raid on the East End and the docks, followed by seven months of the Blitz and, in 1944, the "Baby Blitz", with lesser attacks in between making a total of 253 raids by night and 101 by day—and finally those by the V1 flying bombs and the V2 rockets. The capital suffered some 30,000 killed, half the UK total.

Of provincial cities, the worst hit were Liverpool, Birmingham, Plymouth and Hull. The most severe single raid was on Coventry, a centre of aircraft manufacture, in November, 1940, for which the Germans used a new navigational system to concentrate the attack: the city and 21 of its factories were devastated and 554 people killed.

Throughout Britain 456,000 homes were destroyed and more than four million badly damaged.

The destruction caused by conventional bombing had been predicted, but casualties were less than forecast. The robot weapons were something new and predictions, based on intelligence reports, were sketchy.

Both would have been infinitely worse but for RAF bombing of launch sites and the advance of the Allies on the Continent. The flying bombs killed 5,475 civilians and badly wounded three times that number. The rockets killed another 2,724 and severely injured more than double that total. A failure in intelligence and a delay in the advance through France, Belgium and the Netherlands could have meant the total devastation of London.

Left, firefighters douse blazing City buildings. Below, in Balham, south London, a bus lands in a bombed tube station. Bottom, bedding down in Piccadilly Underground station. The train has finished its day's running.



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THE PICTURE LIBRARY

WORLD'S LARGEST DAILY SALE
Thursday, November 2, 1934

Thursday, November 2, 1934

NUFF
JOIN



Official posters, right and bottom, encouraged people to be self-sufficient.

**And this is
how far
it goes—**

Half a coupon for a ham sandwich	But none for butter in a restaurant
----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

WHEN BUTTER AND BACON ARE
RATIONED, HAM WILL BE RATIONED,
TOO

The rations announced last night will probably begin on December 16. They will be a quarter of a pound each of butter and bacon for every individual. That means a pound of bacon and a pound of butter for a family of four.

Here's your week's BACON



Return value is a quarter of a pound a week. For

RATIONS

The answers
to your
questions

? How big a ham and
how much I get for
kill a bunn? -
A sandwich con-
taining two ounces of ham.

? I am I order bread
and butter or a roll
and ham? - A re-
sultant - what
giving up a coupon? - Yes.

? I am I get ham
without a coupon at
a shop? -
Yes, at a catering
establishment.

? Are fried eggs and
bacon or fried eggs
and ham exempt? -
No, you must give
a coupon for it.

order 11c.

Ham will be treated as part of the bacon ration; bacon coupons will have to be given up from your ration book when you buy ham.

Margarine will not be factored. No more pink salmon, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said.

TRAVEL COUPONS

1. I am going to _____ away from _____
in _____ in _____ month _____ year.

2. I am going to _____ home _____
in _____ month _____ year.

3. I am going to _____
in _____ month _____ year.

4. I am going to _____
in _____ month _____ year.

5. I am going to _____
in _____ month _____ year.

6. I am going to _____
in _____ month _____ year.

7. I am going to _____
in _____ month _____ year.

8. I am going to _____
in _____ month _____ year.

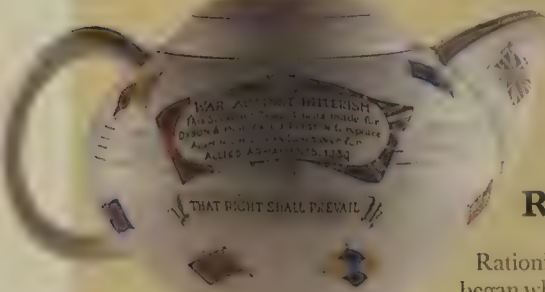
9. I am going to _____
in _____ month _____ year.

10. I am going to _____
in _____ month _____ year.

Treasure, 'giving'

Daily newspapers gave graphic descriptions of how much food readers could expect to buy with the coupons in their ration books.

Bottom, a housewife in Sidcup, Kent, helps the war effort by surrendering her pots and pans to the WWS. Pottery teapots, below, were issued in exchange for aluminium ones.



RATIONING

Rationing, long planned, began when it was seen how effective the blockade by German submarines was likely to become. But, ironically, the rationing of food and clothing was more stringent after the war than in its most dangerous years. Bread, which was unrationed throughout the war, was put on the ration in 1946.

Ration books, printed in 1938, were issued in the autumn of 1939 and rationing was introduced in January, 1940. Thereafter the amount of food allowed to individuals varied according to supply. In 1940 it was between 4 and 12 ounces of sugar a week; 4 to 8 ounces of bacon or ham; 2 to 4 ounces of tea; 4 to 8 ounces of butter; 1 to 8 ounces of cheese; 2 ounces of cooking fats; and between one shilling and 2s 2d worth of meat. Chocolates and sweets were rationed from July, 1942, at

8 ounces a month, soon after increased to 12, but they remained a rarity until well after the war.

Canned and dried food was available on the "points system" (which gave a choice about what to buy) but much food—notably offal (such as liver and kidneys), game and, when available, fish—was unrationed. Such food was available in restaurants but the price of meals was pegged at a maximum of five shillings, however grand the restaurant (although these were able to demand more for luxuries such as lobster, and they imposed a "cover charge").

The British never went hungry but got tired of Spam and other tinned products, and the threat of famine did become real during the middle years of the war when the sinking of merchant ships by U-boats in the Atlantic came close to cutting off imported food.

Agriculture in the British Isles was expanded to the maximum, the number of allotments for growing vegetables doubled to nearly 1,500,000 and some 7,000 pig clubs were started for householders able to keep a pig

and fatten it on kitchen waste. In the event, the population's modest diet kept it as healthy as it has ever been. Nobody seemed to be overweight.

Clothes were rationed from June, 1941, each adult receiving 66 coupons a year. A man's jacket would need 13 coupons and trousers eight; a women's dress needed 11.

Go through your wardrobe



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INDEX



ITEN PICTURE LIBRARY

"Britain can take it" was the slogan but morale was strained at times, particularly after the first heavy raids on the East End of London. The German air force's first targets were at sea. Then in the summer of 1940 they concentrated on RAF fighter and radar stations, followed by London itself. When the Blitz had failed to achieve any objective by the spring of 1941, the bombers concentrated on other industrial cities and next on the so-called "Baedeker" raids on historic towns, in reprisal for the bombing of Germany. Finally the air assault was continued by unmanned aircraft and rockets.

By 1944 the nation was weary, and surveys conducted by the government's opinion-seeking agency Mass Observation reflect this, catching the vernacular of the time. After bombs hit blocks of flats in Chelsea, a local man was quoted as saying: "People are resenting these raids. Haven't you noticed that nearly everybody looks 10 years older? That dreadful bombing at World's End offended a lot of people."

Yet the same series of a dozen raids over 10 weeks early in 1944



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

SERVE TO SAVE

A family whose house has been bombed, top, survived in the safety of the Anderson shelter in their garden. Above, an ARP recruitment poster. Right, refreshments for two air-raid wardens.

stimulated many others. The art historian James Lees-Milne wrote in his diary: "A clear, starry night. It was beautiful but shameful to enjoy the glow of the fires, the red burst of distant shells and the criss-cross of searchlights. I suppose that Nero must have

GEORGE RODGER/MAGNUM





THE LONDON TIMES

Above, Rainbow Corner, a large club run by the American Red Cross near Piccadilly Circus, was a favourite meeting place for US servicemen away from home.

AMERICANS

In January, 1942, the first 4,000 of some two million Americans who were to serve in the British Isles landed in Belfast. Their arrival was not only to change the balance of the war in the Allies' favour but also to change the British way of life. They brought with them a new set of manners—in some directions more old-fashioned and courtly, in others more direct and occasionally coarse—and a refreshing disregard for English social barriers.

Inevitably there were some initial tensions. American rates of pay were at least three times higher than the British, and they had at their disposal luxuries long vanished from Britain. Their breezy manners and generosity won female hearts, often to the resentment of the British menfolk. The Americans' ignorance of English class structure meant that many an attractive girl from an ordinary background found herself invited to a party at an officers' mess to which she would not hitherto have aspired. The arrival of the Americans played an important part in the

breaking down of English social barriers.

There was a longer-lasting consequence of the American invasion: when the war ended, some 80,000 British girls who had married Americans—the "GI brides"—sailed for the United States.

Anglo-American relations were happier in East Anglia, where American aircrews actively fighting were based, than in transit and recreational areas, where they could be seen as affluent rivals to the indigenous males. Difficulties were sharply reduced as the newcomers played an increasingly active part in the fighting. Two US air corps of heavy bombers operated from Britain and until French ports were opened in the autumn of 1944 all the American troops who landed in Normandy had passed through Britain. By May, 1945, more than three million servicemen from the USA were in Europe. When they departed, the problems were soon seen as having been mostly petty and were forgotten, leaving a glow of mutual affection and nostalgia.

derived a similar thrill from watching Christians as human torches and did not feel ashamed."

By then the feeling that victory was within sight buoyed morale. Alan Moorehead, the war correspondent, wrote at that time: "Bombs or no bombs. London is the capital of the world. Where else would you rather be at such a

decisive and exultant moment as this?" Most people, accustomed to danger, just carried on. As a *Tatler* gossip columnist noted: "Lunch-time seems even more popular for meeting one's friends. Perhaps the return of the air raids at night has something to do with this."

For much of the time daily life was uncomfortable as well as dangerous. Some spent their nights in cold shelters, made of corrugated iron covered with earth, sunk into the ground at the bottom of the garden; others slept in crowded, smelly public shelters or in London Underground stations, where bunks were provided for those people wishing to bed down for the night. Trains were crowded and slow; even the corridors were jammed by slumbers and their bags.

The arts and entertainment offered some insulation against the stress. Radio broadcasts by the BBC—whether of thought-provoking talk shows like *The Brains Trust* or comedies such as *ITMA* and *Band Wagon*—seemed to bind the people together. The theatres offered mostly light entertainment. An exception to the musicals and revues was the Old Vic company at the New Theatre. It presented a season

of classics that has never been surpassed, including Laurence Olivier as Richard III. Hollywood films (and British films with a strong undercurrent of propaganda, like *In Which We Serve* and *Henry V*) played to capacity. There was a hunger for cultural diversion—Myra Hess's famous lunchtime piano recitals at the National Gallery were always crowded—and the sales of intellectual magazines boomed. This was reflected in *The Illustrated London News* where photographic coverage of the war was combined with vivid drawing by war artists, among them Captain Bryan de Grineau, comment on world affairs and also reports on the arts and archaeology, the whole maintaining the high standards that its readers had long come to expect.

Britain itself was looking different. The freshly-smashed buildings of the towns after bombing; the surrealist ceiling of the balloon barrage; sandbags and concrete shelters everywhere; local signposts uprooted and names of towns and villages obliterated; park and street railings removed; crowds of young men and women in Army khaki, dark Navy blue and RAF blue; the coast wrapped in barbed wire

and beaches planted with mines.

By night there was the near-total darkness of the black-out, sometimes sliced by the raking beams of searchlights, splashes of flame from bursting shells, the lightning flashes of bombs and the red glow of fires; by day there were the slowly wheeling white condensation trails of almost invisible aircraft, the traces of a recent aerial dogfight above, or anti-aircraft barrage from horizon to horizon. The sky was no longer a sheltering bowl but a constant source of danger.

The importance of the leadership of Winston Churchill as Prime Minister, from the beginning of the crisis of the war in May, 1940, until the end of the fighting in Europe, was incalculable. For all his wilfulness and shortcomings as a strategist, he proved so charismatic a war leader that it is difficult to imagine the nation having survived under the leadership of any other politician. Whereas Churchill conjured up the martial instincts of the British, the second most popular leader, Field Marshal Montgomery, strengthened the national characteristics of self-confidence and caution; those old enough to remember will testify to the reassurance felt when "Monty" was in command. King George VI, on the other hand, was a foil to their theatricality, symbolising the nation's underlying steadfastness.

But change was in the air, even while the guns were firing. Fierce idealism called up visions of a Utopian future and this seemed to be within reach with the publication of the economist Sir William Beveridge's report in 1942 on post-war social insurance and the architect Sir Patrick Abercrombie's report on town planning, illustrated by Arcadian sketches of future towns laid out among lawns, trees and open-air cafés. Halfway through the war years it became apparent that the Labour party was enjoying increasing support, not only among those in lower income groups, who had hitherto taken little interest in politics, but by many in the conventional middle class, who now felt the need for radical change.

This was already taking place. Memories of pre-war unemployment and deprivation remained fresh, and even at the height of the war there was labour trouble in manufacturing industry, the coal-mines and the docks; in 1944 alone 3,700,000 days' production was lost through strikes. As the mass of the population in



A poster by the cartoon artist Fougasse warns of the dangers of casual gossip.



Some early casualties of the war spent Christmas, 1939, at Hatfield House, the ancestral home of the Cecil family in Hertfordshire, which had become a military hospital. In the Long Gallery, above, the patients, orderlies and nurses mingle and a Christmas tree adds a festive touch.

industry and agriculture saw it, the Conservative party had the albatross of "the bad old days" around its neck, even when in the wartime coalition of national government.

But Britain had become a meritocracy by 1944. Regional

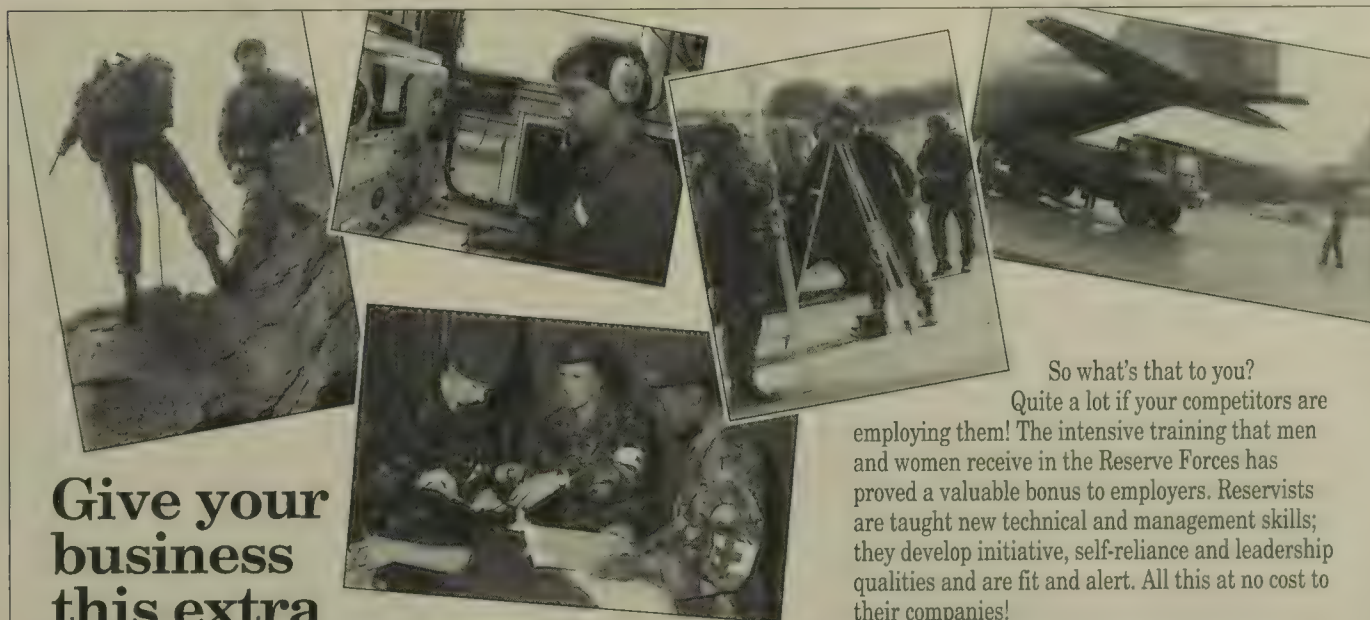
accents and those of the Dominions were heard in officers' messes (except those of the Guards and other fashionable regiments) at least as often as so-called "Oxford" accents. The outward signs of social class remained but they had come to mean little, and

it was not unusual for a country squire to be serving in the Home Guard under the command of his gamekeeper.

Although women were not regarded as combatants—as they were in Russia and Yugoslavia—they helped to man anti-aircraft batteries, flew military aircraft to front-line airfields, ferried barrage balloons to ships at sea and nursed in battle areas. More than 80,000 young women joined the Women's Land Army to work on farms. Experience of the combined freedom and discipline of such life gave them new independence and self-confidence.

The cost of victory was high but far lower than that of countries which had been overrun by the Germans or Japanese. By the official end of the Second World War, with the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945—six years less one day after the British declared war—the United Kingdom's fallen totalled very nearly 306,000 in its armed forces and more than 60,500 civilians.

Yet, while the First World War increasingly seemed to have been an unnecessary slaughter, the Second World War was regarded as a crusade against evil and still seems so after half a century.



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SHOW BUSINESS

AT WAR

SONG AND DANCE, DRAMA AND FILMS ENTERTAINED AUDIENCES AT HOME AND ON MILITARY BASES, WRITES SHERIDAN MORLEY.

On a hot, calm September morning in 1939, after a night riven by thunder, Britain was at war and at once all theatres, even the Windmill, were closed in expectation of an immediate attack. Novello's *The Dancing Years*, Dodie Smith's *Dear Octopus*, Emyln Williams's *The Corn is Green*, Jack Hulbert and Cicely Courtneidge in *Under Your Hat*, Lupino Lane in *Me and My Girl* and John Gielgud in matinees of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, all had been hits of the season, but all now abruptly vanished until the realisation that if anything was especially needed in wartime it would be live entertainment.

Within a few weeks theatres were back in business, but with a different emphasis: as in the First World War, the call was now for brisk musicals, cabarets, revues, light comedies and anything in fact that would take the audience's mind off the immediate dangers rather than plunge them into further gloom.

My and My Girl and *Under Your Hat* were whisked back almost immediately, and later in the war *The Dancing Years* and that great First World War money-spinner *Chu Chin Chow* were revived. Evening performances were moved forward to 5pm to avoid the blackout, but when the bombs did start to fall theatres stayed open all night as refuges, with actors handing out coffee or eagerly singing songs or performing sketches that they had not been encouraged to do when life was more peaceful and audiences less captive.

At a time when nerves were inevitably frayed and attention-spans short, revue really came into its own: assemblies of songs and sketches, nothing lasting more than about 10 minutes, easily interrupted in case of an air raid and easily put back together immediately afterwards. Certainly there was still a demand for the classics, from Gielgud in *King Lear* and directing *Macbeth* to Donald Wolfit's lunchtime performances of Shakespeare, but

this was essentially the heyday of light entertainment, of the Crazy Gang in *The Little Dog Laughed*, of Irving Berlin in *This is the Army*, leading his American army orchestra in "Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning", and of the two Hermiones, Gingold and Baddeley, in the *Sweet and Low* revues.

Broadway imports were tricky: fine if they were broad comedy (my father Robert Morley survived three years as Sheridan Whiteside in Kaufman and Hart's *The Man Who Came To Dinner* at the Savoy), not so fine if, again, they were dark or difficult: the Lunts had trouble with Robert Sherwood's *There Shall Be No Night*.

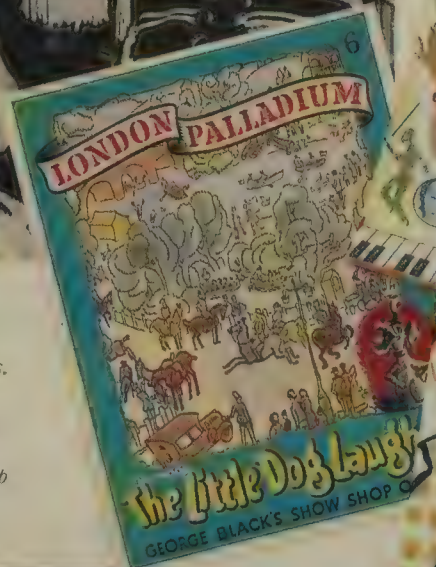
As early as the summer of 1938, Basil Dean had outlined his plans for forming ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association), a troop-entertainment organisation (irreverently dubbed Every Night Something Awful by the comedian Tommy Trinder), and West End stars were regularly

Ivor Novello's *The Dancing Years*, in which he appeared with Mary Ellis and Roma Beaumont, left, was playing at Drury Lane when war broke out. His *Perchance to Dream*, below, opened in April, 1945. Lupino Lane was doing the *Lambeth Walk* in *Me and My Girl* at the Victoria Palace, right, in September, 1939.





George Black produced dozens of wartime shows at the London Palladium and the Prince of Wales. Tommy Trinder, top as Carmen Miranda, Nervo and Knox, above, two of the Crazy Gang, and Sid Field with Jerry Desmond, top right, were some of his stars.



Under Your Hat, starring Cicely Courtneidge and her husband Jack Hulbert, left, was only briefly interrupted at the Palace Theatre at the outbreak of war and continued into 1940. In spite of its claim that "we never closed", the Windmill was shut for 12 days in September, 1939, but remained open during the Blitz. Some of the Windmill girls, right, went out to entertain the troops and they appeared in some of Ralph Reader's *Gang Shows*.



sent around the country and the world to perform in military camps. As in Hollywood, the debate soon developed as to which actors were most useful where: in the services, around the West End or on the road? Of those who stayed in the capital Ivor Novello was perhaps most in evidence with three musicals, the revived *The Dancing Years*, then *Arc de Triomphe* and, just as war ended, *Perchance to Dream*. This was precisely what was wanted: vast, melodic period spectacles, heavy on romance and glitter.

By 1944 tastes were changing: as victory came into distant view, theatregoers were ready for something more demanding. Laurence Olivier and Ralph Richardson, both released from the Fleet Air Arm, took over the Old Vic Theatre company at the New Theatre with a breath-taking repertoire of

Peer Gynt, *Richard III*, *Arms and the Man*, *Uncle Vanya* and both parts of *Henry IV*. By now, too, Olivier had filmed *Henry V* and Coward had made *In Which We Serve*, two great patriotic films of the duration, while Coward had been represented on stage in London for most of the war by *Blithe Spirit*, a play about death and the possibility of an afterlife, at least for Elvira, the ghost of the title, which audiences seemed to find both comforting and topical.

The great stars of London's war were nearly all drawn from the world of song and dance; from Sid Field to Evelyn Laye, from the Crazy Gang to Jack Hulbert and Cicely Courtneidge, they were entertainers of immense vivacity and an improvisational gift, who could play a season at the Palladium and open the next week in a tent in a foreign field with just an upright piano by way of support. They grew accustomed to working in the round, and at close quarters to audiences who invariably became part of their shows: the old division between stalls and stage was never again to be quite so wide or so deep.

Films were a different matter, most of them still came from Hollywood, and were geared to American attitudes and sensibilities. But they worked: *Mrs Miniver* may have been laughed at in some villages, but the number of Bundles for Britain, a gift scheme, increased notably after the film had its American première. In Britain we went back to what we have always done best, grainy and more realistic semi-documentaries such as *Target for Tonight* and *Coastal Command*.

Left, the pianist Myra Hess, who gave lunchtime recitals at the National Gallery. Below, John Gielgud as *King Lear* at the Old Vic in 1940, before the theatre was bombed, and Laurence Olivier as *Richard III* with the Old Vic company at the New Theatre.



Vera Lynn, the indestructible "Sweetheart of the Forces", provided a link with home when she read out letters on her radio programme *Sincerely Yours*.

Leslie Howard, by birth Hungarian, and David Niven, a long-time Hollywood exile from Britain, came together for *The First of the Few*, an incredibly clenched-jaw and tight-lipped account of the creation of the Spitfire, while other films told their stories in their titles: *One of our Aircraft is Missing*, *49th Parallel*, *Next of Kin* and *Millions Like Us*. John Mills and Richard Attenborough were to be found in naval uniform in *In Which We Serve* and Mills was in RAF blue in *The Way to the Stars*.

Anti-war films were not, for obvious reasons, much in evidence over here: British budgets did not allow for that. Instead, as if to reassure us that history was on our side, we liked to see our stars in great historical roles—Gielgud as Disraeli in *The Prime Minister*, Robert Donat in *The Young Mr Pitt* and Olivier and Vivien Leigh in *Lady Hamilton*, in which Nelson symbolised Churchill and Napoleon Hitler.

But the real breakthrough of the war was probably in radio. With television already up and running at Alexandra Palace but suspended for the hostilities, it was left to the BBC National Service to supply Tommy Handley in *ITMA*, the weekly comedy which became such a morale-boosting success that when he died of a heart attack at 55, only four years after the war ended, Handley was the first comedian to be accorded a memorial service in Westminster Abbey.

The *Hi Gang* team of Ben Lyon, Bebe Daniels and Vic Oliver, none of them British, was another long-running wartime hit. These years also gave us *The Brains Trust* and *Twenty Questions*, as though the BBC was determined not to let adult education lapse, and the *Postscript* homilies of J. B. Priestley and the advice of the radio doctor Charles Hill, with a consistent diet of classical and popular music. It was in these years that the radio became the entertainment centre of the



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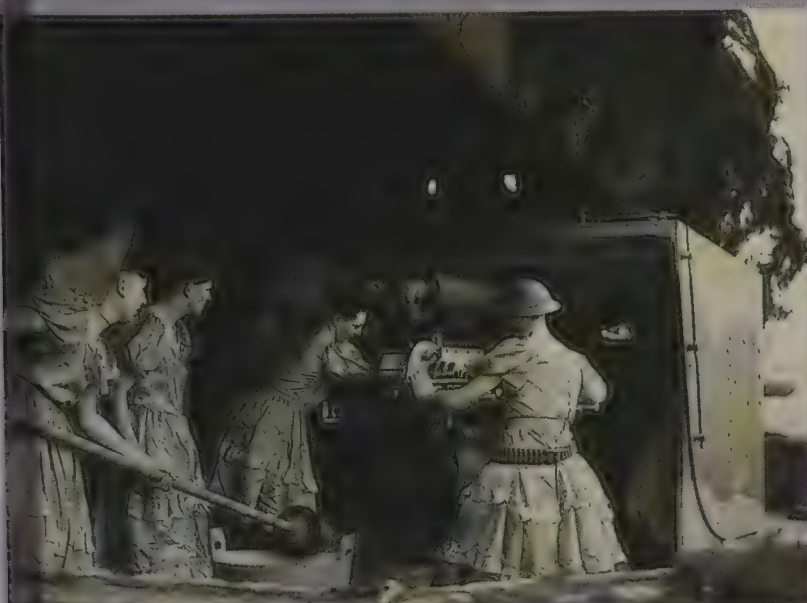
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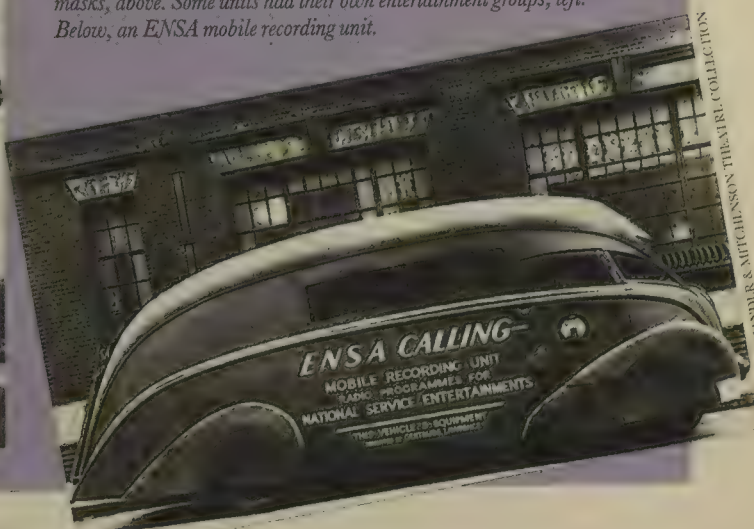


HULTON DEUTSCH



TOPHAM

Top left, Gracie Fields sang for troops in France early in the war and to more than 60,000 men on a 10-day tour of Sicily in 1943. Artists performed on makeshift stages, top, accompanied by a pianist. Left, dancers on an ENSA tour of the Middle East. One producer took a fairly light-hearted approach to the war and had his chorus girls appear in gas masks, above. Some units had their own entertainment groups, left. Below, an ENSA mobile recording unit.



MANDER & MITCHENSON THEATRE COLLECTION

SPORT IN THE WAR



The outbreak of war put a stop to organised sport of all kinds. Virtually all the official highlights in major sports were abandoned: there were no Test matches, no county cricket championship, no FA Cup Final, no Wimbledon tennis, no Open golf, no rugby internationals or Grand Slams. The pavilion at Lord's was temporarily boarded up and the MCC's treasures sent off for safekeeping. The Wimbledon tennis club's building became a gas decontamination centre, the rugby football ground at Twickenham was taken over by various branches of the Services, the racecourse at Epsom was requisitioned for military purposes, many golf clubs had anti-aircraft guns, searchlights or balloon barrages emplaced on them.

But sport did not stop altogether, and once the first shock of war had subsided cricket bats, tennis rackets, golf clubs, soccer and rugby balls were brought out and many sports were carried on in makeshift fashion. The Services and the universities kept some competitions going, particularly in cricket and rugby football. Wartime soccer cup finals were held at Wembley, but only for part of the country (the last South Cup Final was held in April, 1945, and the first resumed FA Cup Final in the following year, the cup itself being kept for the duration in the cellar of a pub in Portsmouth, the town's team being its last pre-war winners). Oxford and Cambridge kept up an annual Boat Race, but it was held at Henley instead of London. The Derby was run at Newmarket instead of Epsom, the great Dante

A German bomb smashed into this grandstand at Wimbledon's centre court in 1940, destroying 1,200 of the seats. Buildings at the club were being used for ambulance and ARP training, and housed a poison-gas decontamination depot. Troops were drilled in the main concourse and a small working farm was also in the grounds.

winning the last Derby run at Newmarket in 1945. A number of mixed amateur-professional tennis matches were organised in aid of the Red Cross and as part of a programme of troop entertainments, but once the war was over the old division between the amateur and professional players was resumed. Those golf clubs whose land was not taken over generally contrived to keep going, but with limited numbers and sometimes having to devise emergency playing rules. One club introduced a new rule stating that if a player's stroke was affected by a simultaneous explosion, or by machine-gun fire, another ball might be played from the same place, though with a penalty of one stroke.

Sport quickly recovered its old pattern at the end of the war, cricket leading the way. In the summer of 1945, following victory in Europe, a series of cricket Victory Tests was organised between an England XI and a team drawn from Australian servicemen in England. The matches drew large crowds hungry for sporting entertainment, and the England team did quite well, contriving to draw the series but benefiting perhaps from the fact that Don Bradman was not one of those Australians serving here at that time.



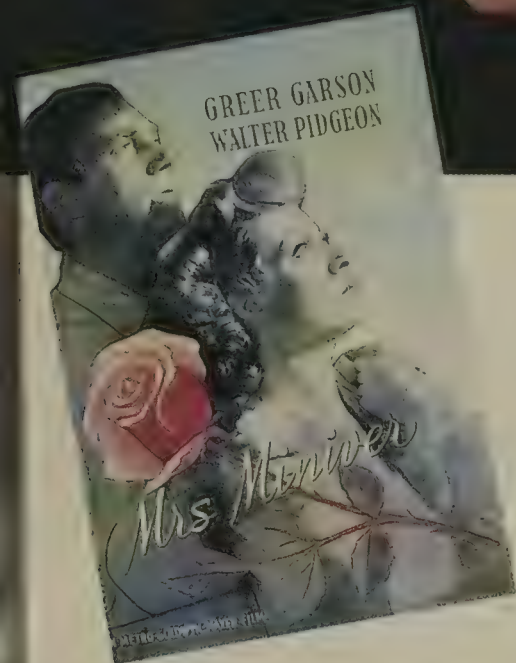
THE RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE



THE KORAL COLLECTION



Above, *Gone with the Wind* was released at the start of the war. Seen by millions, it has since been revived many times. So, too, have *Brief Encounter*, top right, a stiff-upper-lip wartime romance that Coward scripted, the tear-jerking *Mrs Miniver*, left, and the enduring *Casablanca*, right, the spy-thriller cum tragic love story which captured the mood of the times.



PHOTOGRAPHS THE RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE

Opposite page, Noel Coward used Lord Louis Mountbatten's exploits in the destroyer *Kelly* as the model for his film *In Which We Serve*, top. John Mills was one of its stars and later exchanged naval uniform for RAF blue in *The Way to the Stars*, in which Michael Redgrave also appeared, centre. One of the great names of wartime films in Britain was Anton Walbrook, bottom, who played a Polish concert pianist, opposite Sally Gray, in *Dangerous Moonlight* early in the war.

Below left, Roger Livesey in the title role of *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*, a film which Churchill considered banning at one time. Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's biography of a military man was an agreeable, but fictitious study. Unusually for 1943, it was shot in colour. Below, Shakespeare's *Henry V*, a stirring spectacular directed by and starring Laurence Olivier, was designed to boost morale as the war dragged on into its fifth year. Winston Churchill approved.

home, source of information and amusement within a narrow waveband focus that no medium has ever been able to enjoy in more fragmented post-war times.

BBC radio had also more serious causes to serve. Coded messages could be sent to prisoners of war, America could be kept informed of the state of the Blitz by Ed Murrow, and children evacuated to the United States could be kept in touch with their British parents. It was the war, in one of its more benevolent side-effects, that gave the BBC a reputation for accuracy and integrity which serves it around the world to this day.

The story of British entertainment in wartime is inevitably of the mainstream and frequently of escapism. It was not until we were safely at peace again that we could afford the luxury of new poetic drama or experimental films or atonal music, for a world at war does not look to its arts for danger or experiment when of necessity there has to be enough of that in the sheer effort to survive and to win. An audience under attack does not go to the theatre or turn on the radio for death and despair and defeat, especially when there is enough in the air already. Ironically, many entertainers never had it so good: as the world went back to peace, they were to find that never again were their audiences to be quite so enthusiastic, quite so undemanding in their search for pleasure.



PHOTOGRAPHS THE RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE





HULTON-DEUTSCH

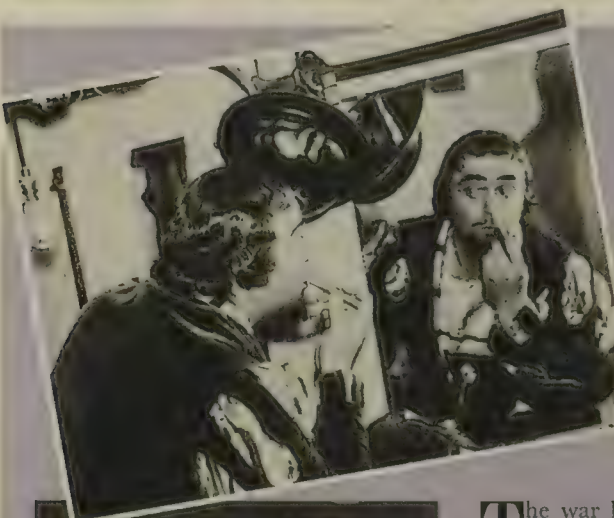


BBC

Above, members of *The Brains Trust* in 1941. From left to right, Quentin Reynolds, C.E.M. Joad, Julian Huxley, Cmdr A.B. Campbell, question master Donald McCullough and E.N. da C. Andrade. Left, the irrepressible Tommy Handley, with Dorothy Summers as Mrs Mopp, in the Victory broadcast of *ITMA*. Right, Arthur Askey and Richard Murdoch at the microphone for an edition of the popular *Band Waggon*.



BBC



OPERA & BALLET IN THE WAR

Tudor Davies, left, sang *Faust* on September 30, 1939. Below, Robert Helpmann and Pamela May in *Dante Sonata*.



The war brought an end to grand opera at Covent Garden but did not cause all performances to cease in London, or in the rest of the country. Sadler's Wells was by then regularly providing opera in English. The theatre closed briefly on the outbreak of war, but when the company director, Tyrone Guthrie, decided to test public support by mounting a matinee of *Faust* on September 30, the audience flocked back. Thereafter opera continued at the Wells until the theatre became a rest centre for the bombed-out people of Finsbury in 1940.

At this point Guthrie set up a touring company of 20 singers, under the conductor Lawrance Collingwood, to take *La traviata* and *The Marriage of Figaro* to the

northern industrial towns. The operas were performed in the same basic set, with two-piano accompaniment. So successful was the venture that touring continued from a headquarters in the Victoria Theatre, Burnley, with a repertory that included *The Barber of Seville*, *Tosca*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Madame Butterfly* and *The Magic Flute*. Despite hardships and privations, the company prospered, and by 1941 had expanded to include an orchestra of 23, with 14 principals and a chorus of 14. Among the new members were singers Owen Brannigan and Peter Pears and the conductor Reginald Goodall.

Meanwhile there were occasional short appearances at the New Theatre in London. A 1941 programme note by Guthrie summed up the situation: "This season makes no pretence to being grand opera. For a time, opera cannot be grand; to survive it must at present be shorn of much..." Sadler's Wells Opera returned to London in 1945, only four weeks after VE-Day, and reopened with the world première of Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes*.

The war history of Sadler's Wells Ballet ran parallel to that of the opera, with regular touring and occasional visits to the New Theatre. With the departure on active service of all the young male dancers, Robert Helpmann was the company's mainstay. He partnered Margot Fonteyn in a striking series of new ballets; and in 1944 he created *Miracle in the Gorbals* with Moira Shearer.

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Churchill met US President Roosevelt at sea in August to agree the Atlantic Charter. Within four months the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor and the US had entered the war.

Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, right, parachuted onto a field in Scotland in May. His intentions were unclear, and he was imprisoned.



The Squander Bug was an officially inspired campaign to deter extravagance at home.

The Luftwaffe continued its nightly attacks on British cities during the first months of the year, though Hitler conceded in late February that bombing had not achieved the knock-out blow intended. He also ordered his aircraft to begin bombing the island of Malta, with the intention of neutralising this strategic British base in the Mediterranean. In North Africa British and Australian troops captured Tobruk and Benghazi from the Italians, but lost them again later when Hitler sent out the German Afrika Korps under General Erwin Rommel, who ultimately pushed the Allies back to the Egyptian border. In May Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, parachuted onto a field in Scotland, apparently unsound of mind but intent on arranging peace. He was locked up in the Tower of London. In Britain conscription was extended to men up to the age of 51 and to women between 20 and 30. Clothes rationing was introduced and food shortages became more intense. Jam, marmalade

and golden syrup were rationed and many other unrationed items—such as offal, fish, oranges, lemons, tinned fruit, coffee, and even onions—became scarce or unobtainable. In Europe the Germans occupied Yugoslavia, Greece and Crete, forcing British troops to evacuate. At the end of May, after a long chase in the Atlantic, the German battleship *Bismarck* was sunk, but the Royal Navy lost the battle-cruiser *Hood*, with around 1,400 of her crew, in the action. In June Hitler turned on his former ally, Russia, quickly capturing Kiev, Kharkov and Rostov and laying siege to Moscow and Leningrad. Winston Churchill met US President Franklin D. Roosevelt in August to agree the Atlantic Charter, which set out common principles for the western democracies. In December Japan launched an air attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, crippling most of the US Pacific Fleet, which prompted the US to declare war against the Axis powers. In the same month two British warships, the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse*, were sunk by the Japanese and, on Christmas Day, while Churchill and Roosevelt were conferring in Washington, the British colony of Hong Kong surrendered to Japan.



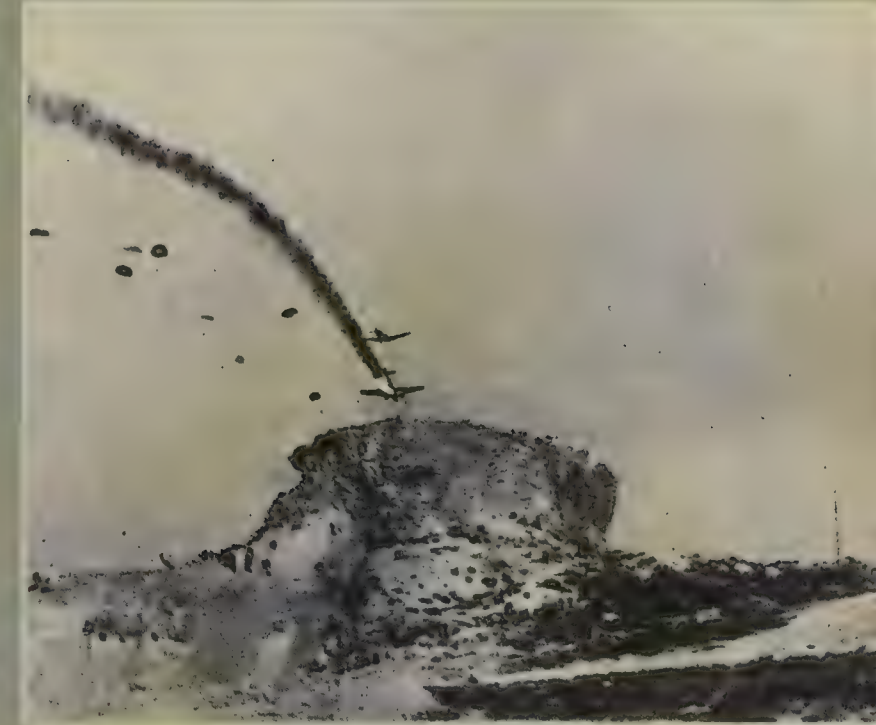
Hitler's armies invaded Russia in June, and by the end of the year his tanks were besieging Leningrad, left.

German paratroops landed on Crete in May, the start of an invasion that forced a British withdrawal.



Winston Churchill with his War Cabinet. From left to right, standing: Arthur Greenwood, Ernest Bevin, Lord Beaverbrook, Sir Kingsley Wood; seated: Sir John Anderson, Churchill, Clement Attlee, Anthony Eden.

Amy Johnson, right, the first woman to fly solo to Australia, which she did in 1930, joined the Air Transport Auxiliary in the war but was killed when her aircraft was lost over the Thames estuary.



Orson Welles's classic film *Citizen Kane*, right, was released in 1941, the year in which the German-born actress Marlene Dietrich, bottom right, became a US citizen.





Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore was ruthless. Left, Japanese soldiers in Hong Kong, later accused of extreme cruelty by the British government.

Right, commandos moving in for the abortive raid on Dieppe in August. Below, Sir George Borg, Chief Justice of Malta, receives the George Cross awarded to his gallant island.



The Duke and Duchess of Kent. The Duke was killed in an air crash.

1942



Sir William Beveridge, below, whose report laid the foundations of the welfare state.



Russian war poster.



The new Waterloo bridge was partially opened to traffic.



Churchill described 1942 as the hinge of fate—the year when the war turned “from almost uninterrupted disaster to almost unbroken success”. In the Far East at the beginning of the year Japanese forces continued their inexorable advance. Malaya was overrun and on February 15 Singapore, with its British naval base, surrendered. Burma fell shortly afterwards, and US forces abandoned the Philippines. Japanese military progress was finally checked when, in a naval battle off Midway island in June, four aircraft-carriers were sunk by American dive-bombers, and US Marines captured Guadalcanal in August. In Britain the British Restaurants were introduced—cafeterias that provided simple food very cheaply (roast beef and two veg, apple pie and coffee for less than a shilling). In public restaurants expenditure on food was limited to five shillings. Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris took over RAF Bomber Command and began, using the new Lancaster bombers, a series of massive air raids on Germany. The first, involving more than 1,000 bombers dropping in excess of 1,000 tons of bombs, was launched

against Cologne; later raids included attacks on Essen, Bremen, Hamburg, Düsseldorf and Duisberg. Allied troops, mainly Canadian, made a raid on Dieppe which, though a costly failure, provided many lessons for the later preparation of D-Day. In Russia the Germans began to attack Stalingrad, but met with well-organised resistance, while in North Africa Rommel captured Tobruk and continued his advance which was not finally halted until he reached El Alamein inside the borders of Egypt. At this point an Italian aircraft landed in the desert from which alighted Mussolini, together with a white charger on which the Italian leader proposed to ride into the streets of Cairo. His confidence was unjustified for under its new commander, General Bernard Montgomery, the British Eighth Army launched a fierce offensive which, before the end of the year, forced Rommel into retreat. Churchill again had words to describe the situation. Speaking at the Mansion House at the end of the year he declared: “This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” He was right. The hinge of fate had begun to swing.



Sir Arthur Harris, advocate of strategic bombing, who took over control of RAF Bomber Command in February.



Above, a Kittihawk of the RAF “Sharknose” Squadron in the desert. Right, German tanks destroyed in the battle of El Alamein in November.

THE WAR AT SEA

*BY LUDOVIC KENNEDY.
THE ROYAL NAVY GUARDED
BRITAIN'S SHORES AND
KEPT OPEN VITAL LIFELINES,
BUT LOST 320 MAJOR
WARSHIPS AND 50,000 MEN*



ILLUSTRATION BY LONDON NEWS PICTURE LIBRARY



During the first six months of the war the Royal Navy bore the brunt of the fighting. Later, in the Norwegian campaign of 1940, we lost many ships, then in May the Navy played its vital part in rescuing the British Expeditionary Force from the beaches of Dunkirk.

The following autumn the Germans planned to invade us. But the words of Admiral Lord St Vincent to his nervous fellow peers in 1802, when Napoleon's Grand Army was massing at Boulogne, still held: "I do not say they cannot come, my lords. I only say they cannot come by

Left, the Royal Navy's Norfolk firing against Bismarck, having chased the battleship through the night after the destruction of the battle-cruiser Hood.

A German sailor in Prinz Eugen photographed a direct hit on Bismarck. Some 100 German survivors, right, were pulled to safety, landed at a British port and taken to POW camps.



sea”—a truth that even Hitler had to recognise.

During the First World War Winston Churchill said that the only man on either side who could lose the war in an afternoon was Admiral Jellicoe, commander of the Grand Fleet. Churchill meant that if ever the German High Seas Fleet defeated the Grand Fleet, our lifeline to America would be cut and we should be starved into surrender. The Grand Fleet survived, though in 1917 losses from U-boats nearly brought us to our knees.

In the Second World War the goals were the same: for the Germans to cut the lifeline; for us to keep it intact. The convoy system had saved us in 1917, and in 1939 we adopted it again. Bonuses were the asdic echo-sounder, which located submerged submarines, and the Bletchley Park

decrypts from the German Enigma machines (helped by the capture of one from U110), which indicated the whereabouts of U-boat groups, thus enabling convoys to be routed clear of them.

Against this, the German aces had many early successes. Prien slipped into Scapa Flow, sinking the battleship *Royal Oak*, and Kretschmer (later a Nato admiral) notched up sinkings of a quarter of a million tons of shipping. Their task was greatly eased when the occupation of France gave them bases on the very edge of the Atlantic, and Admiral Dönitz introduced “wolf-pack” tactics by which the first U-boat to sight a convoy called up others by radio so that they could attack simultaneously from all sides, some entering the convoy lines at night and attacking at close range on the surface.

Despite frightening losses we prevailed because of new measures. Radar was improved and enabled a transmitting U-boat’s position to be pinpointed. Coastal Command planes and aircraft from escort carriers sank U-boats approaching convoys on the surface; and hunter-killer groups were successful—that of the legendary Captain Frederick Walker sank six U-boats on one patrol.

The enemy’s new measures, such as the schnorkel and the Walter boat, which could move more quickly submerged than the escorts chasing it, came too late. By the end of the war U-boats had sunk 15 million tons of shipping across the world, but three out of four never returned.

The German navy also deployed surface ships into the Atlantic and far beyond. In December, 1939, in the south Atlantic three British

cruisers had a running fight with the pocket battleship *Admiral Graf Spee*, which escaped into the river Plate and then blew herself up. The battle-cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, which sank my father’s ship *Rawalpindi* in 1939 and the carrier *Glorious* in 1940, accounted for the further score of ships in 1941. On her maiden voyage the giant *Bismarck*, the fastest and most heavily armed battleship afloat, sank the pride of the Royal Navy, the battle-cruiser *Hood*, before being crippled by a torpedo from *Ark Royal*’s Swordfish aircraft; after the guns of *Rodney* and *King George V* had reduced her to a flaming wreck, she was scuttled by her crew.

In February, 1942, *Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau* and *Prinz Eugen*, bottled up in Brest, made an amazing daylight dash through the English Channel back to Germany,



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It was vital to keep the supply routes to Russia open, and early in 1942 the Royal Navy and the Merchant Marine had to contend with conditions of extreme cold in the Baltic, above right. Later that year the biggest Allied convoy ever sent to Russia, above, spent four days fighting its way through ceaseless attacks by torpedos, bombs and U-boats. Left, motor-torpedo boats patrolled the English Channel. A torpedo hit from one of Ark Royal's aircraft had sunk Bismarck in the Bay of Biscay in May, 1941, and seven months later Ark Royal, below, was herself torpedoed 30 miles west of Gibraltar. She sank with the loss of only one life. Far right, a victim of a U-boat attack in the Atlantic.

GEORGE RODGERMAN

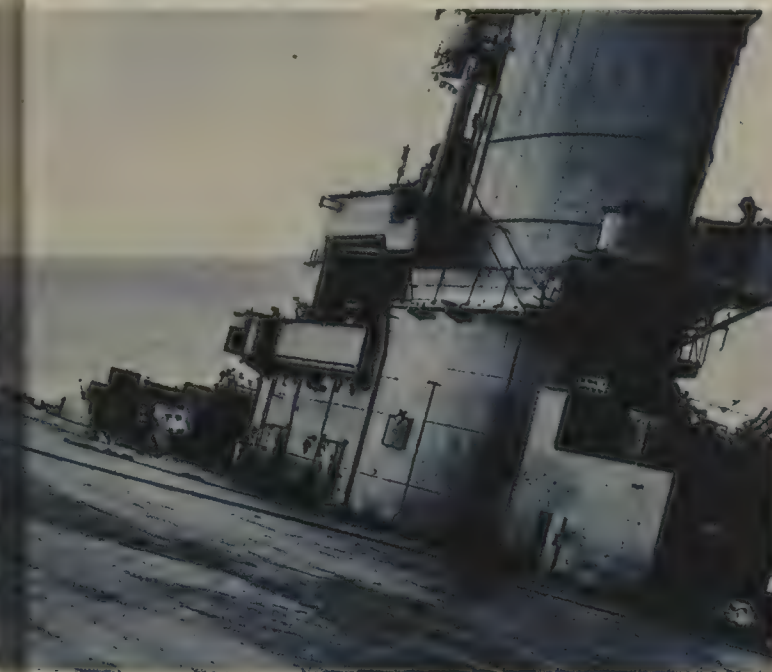
surviving attacks from destroyers, aircraft, motor-torpedo boats and mines. Later *Scharnhorst* joined *Tirpitz*, sister ship of *Bismarck*, in the Norwegian fjords, where they menaced the Russian convoys to Murmansk and Archangel, the presence of *Tirpitz* leading to one convoy, PQ 17, being ordered to scatter, with the loss by aircraft and U-boat of 23 ships. *Scharnhorst* was sunk by Admiral Fraser's flagship, *Duke of York*, on Boxing Day, 1943; while *Tirpitz* survived attacks by midge submarines (which earned two of their captains VCs) and the Fleet Air Arm only to be destroyed by RAF Lancasters while at anchor off Tromsø in November, 1944.

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In the Mediterranean the Navy's principal task was to keep open the sea-lanes between Gibraltar and Alexandria, and to supply the garrison of Malta with planes, guns, food and fuel. For nearly three years Malta and the convoys that succoured her took a fearful battering, but she survived heroically and was awarded the George Cross. After the fall of France, the French fleet escaped to Oran in North Africa and one of the Royal Navy's most distasteful tasks—to prevent its seizure by the Germans—was to sink the bulk of it at anchor. The Italian fleet proved a more immediate threat, largely pre-empted by a brilliant Fleet

Air Arm attack on its base at Taranto, which sank three battleships at their moorings—first proof that air power was now an element of sea power. The rest of the Italian fleet made several half-hearted sorties, which led to further sinkings by Admiral Cunningham's aggressive tactics off Calabria and Matapan. The Italians' one outstanding success was the penetration of the fleet anchorage at Alexandria by a group of "frogmen", led by Prince Borghese, who attached limpet mines to the hulls of the battleships *Queen Elizabeth* and *Valiant* severely damaging them. Enigma decrypts proved invaluable in giving sailing times

and routes of convoys carrying weapons to Rommel's Afrika Korps, enabling a small squadron from Malta to destroy many enemy vessels. Our submarines, too, sank a vast amount of enemy shipping, including 21 of their own kind, although U-boats sank the battleship *Barham* and *Ark Royal* when only 30 miles from Gibraltar. But the Royal Navy's darkest hour in this theatre came with the losses caused by the Luftwaffe during the evacuation of our troops from Crete: three cruisers and six destroyers sunk and several other warships, large and small, seriously damaged. But as the Eighth Army advanced west from El Alamein the tide began



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The drawing by W.G. Whitaker, above, shows a night scene over Malta, where the anti-aircraft barrage was said to be one of the strongest in the world. Below, barrage balloons were tethered to ships at anchor and flown by convoys under threat of attack by low-flying aircraft. Filled with hydrogen and moored by powerful steel cables, the unmanned balloons were also used to protect military bases and strategic sites from enemy air raids.



to turn; and in November, 1942, a huge Anglo-American invasion force landed on the North African coast. That marked the end of the Afrika Korps.

The way was now open for the invasion by British and American forces of southern Europe: first of Sicily, then of mainland Italy and later in the south of France. The Germans fought stubbornly, particularly at Anzio,

a landing designed to threaten Rome, and several warships were sunk or damaged by the new radio-controlled glider bombs. When Mussolini fell from power, Italy sued for terms; and appropriately, the Italian battle fleet sailed to Malta to surrender.

In England, meanwhile, plans were going ahead for the invasion of northern Europe. This took place on June 6, 1944, when 1,200 British and American warships escorted more than 4,000 landing and support ships carrying 130,000 soldiers who, in the greatest amphibious operation in history, stormed ashore on the Normandy beaches. For Hitler it was the beginning of the end.

In the Far East the Japanese had learnt the lesson of Taranto, applying it first at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and again when *Prince of Wales* and the battle-cruiser *Repulse* ventured out from Singapore to counter a Japanese landing in Malaya. The British were quickly overwhelmed and sunk by waves of bomber and torpedo planes. Singapore fell and the remaining ships of the Eastern fleet were later annihilated in the battle of the Java Sea.

A new scratch Eastern fleet was put together, based in Ceylon, under Admiral Somerville. In March, 1942, having received intelligence of Japanese carriers coming his way, he withdrew to an emergency base in the Maldives. When the enemy carriers attacked, they found the harbours at Colombo and Trincomalee empty. This was the farthest west that the Japanese ever came.

For the next two years, while American and Japanese forces slugged it out in a series of bloody conflicts at sea and on islands in the south Pacific, Somerville waited patiently for the day when he could take the offensive. It came in March, 1944, when with the carriers *Illustrious* and the American *Saratoga* he launched successful attacks on shipping and oil tanks in Sumatra and Surabaya. Later that year he was succeeded by Admiral Fraser and soon the fleet was harrying Japan's ever-diminishing shipping in the Bay of Bengal and the approaches to Rangoon.

By January, 1945, three carriers, *Victorious*, *Indomitable* and *Indefatigable*, had joined the Eastern fleet, and under Admiral Vian launched a devastating attack on the oil refineries at Palembang. They then proceeded to Australia, where with the battleship *King George V*, the carriers *Illustrious*, *Implacable* and *Formidable* and assorted cruisers and destroyers they formed the British Pacific fleet under Admiral Fraser. The fleet worked in co-operation with the American Navy, attacking many targets on Okinawa and Formosa as well as the Japanese mainland, and although some were hit by kamikaze (suicide) planes crashing on the carriers' flight decks, all survived.

After the atom-bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki had ended the war, Admiral Fraser attended the official surrender ceremonies on board Admiral Halsey's flagship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay, while Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia, accepted the surrender of forces in his area in Singapore.

Britain entered the war with an empire and the world's biggest navy. During the war she lost 320 major warships; 50,000 officers and men of the Royal Navy were killed and 30,000 of the Merchant Marine. The years after the war saw the dissolution of the Empire and the Royal Navy reduced from a grand total of 1,200 warships in 1945—the result of wartime construction—to no more than 56 major warships today.



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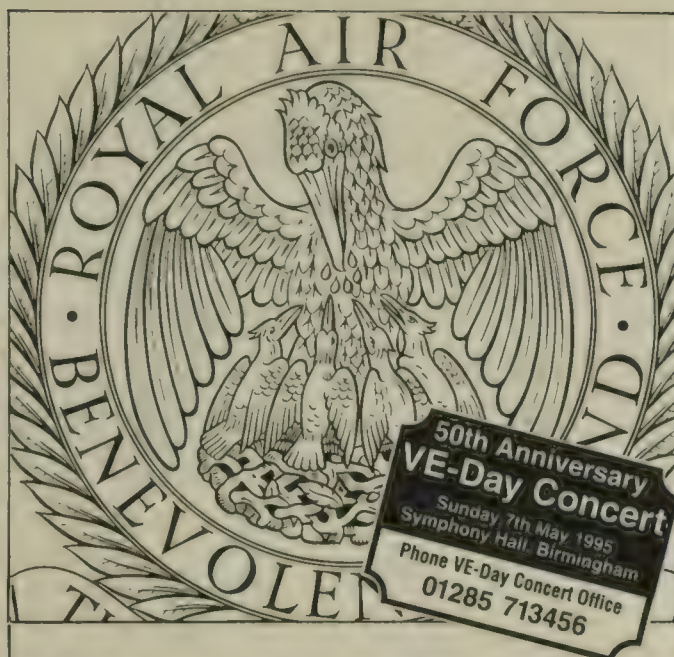
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HE HAD FIRST TO GAIN CONTROL
OF THE AIR. THIS HE FAILED TO DO,
THANKS TO THE FIGHTER
PILOTS IN THEIR HURRICANES AND
SPITFIRES. LATER IN THE WAR
BOMBER COMMAND CARRIED THE
ATTACK ON TO GERMAN TERRITORY.*

The first major, and most decisive, air battle of the Second World War, which came to be known as the Battle of Britain, was fought between RAF Fighter Command and the fighters and bombers of the Luftwaffe from July to the end of October, 1940. At the start the RAF had about 650 serviceable fighter aircraft, mostly Hurricanes and Spitfires, while the Luftwaffe had a force of some 2,700 bombers and fighters. The battle began with raids

on British convoys in the English Channel and on ports along the south coast from Dover to Plymouth. These were followed by daylight attacks on RAF aircraft and airfields in which the German objective, as laid down by Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering, was either to destroy British fighters on the ground or to lure them into the air and shoot them down by superior numbers. In response the tactics of Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh (later Lord) Dowding, head of



The Battle of Britain was fought in the skies above the south coast and the Thames estuary, as vividly depicted here by Paul Nash.

Fighter Command, were to keep some squadrons in reserve, to ensure that those in operation were not all having to land to refuel at the same time, and by making use of information provided by the Ultra codebreakers and the radar warning stations, which Dowding himself had caused to be set up, to deploy

fighters in superior numbers where they could be most effective. It was a close-run thing, but when the RAF was at crisis point, having lost about 450 fighter aircraft and more than 100 pilots, the German attacks were switched to night bombing and the Blitz of London and other cities. These night raids did much damage and killed and wounded many civilians, but they gave the RAF a breathing space. On September 15, a Sunday, there took place what Churchill later

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM/ROBERT HUNT LIBRARY

described as one of the most decisive battles of the war, when the Luftwaffe launched a massive daylight raid on the south of England. All available British fighter units were called in to repel the attack, and there were no reserves left on which to call. Fifty-six German aircraft were shot down that day (the original estimates had put German losses at 183), and that same night British aircraft of Bomber Command attacked shipping in ports from Boulogne to Antwerp,

destroying many barges that had been assembled by the Germans for Operation Sealion, the planned invasion of Britain. On September 17 Hitler postponed Sealion indefinitely, and though the nightly Blitz continued the Battle of Britain had been won by the British.

In the following year, and increasingly thereafter, the air war was carried to Germany, mainly by RAF Bomber Command. Poorly equipped in the early years of the war, it was not

THE WAR IN THE AIR



Left, more than 1,000 heavy bombers, including Stirlings and Lancasters, took part in a raid on Essen in 1942. Above, a flight of German Stuka dive-bombers, scourge of Allied ground troops and transport.

until 1942 that the RAF had enough four-engine heavy aircraft, particularly the Avro Lancaster, capable of carrying heavy bomb loads to Berlin and beyond and equipped with sophisticated navigational and radar aids for effective night raids. Under Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Harris, the RAF's Bomber Command launched a series of massive raids, carried out by at least 1,000 bombers, on Cologne, Essen, Bremen, Hamburg, Dresden and other German cities, dropped specially designed bouncing bombs to breach the Möhne and Eder dams and began a series of night raids on Berlin, while the US Air Force, with B-17 Flying Fortresses, carried out daylight raids on the same targets.

During the weeks before the D-Day landings bombers from both air forces carried out daylight raids on rail and road communications in Normandy, while during the actual landings fighters provided the vital air cover which helped to ensure their success. When the German V1 and V2 attacks began, British fighters were in action again to shoot down the flying bombs (more than 1,800 were destroyed by fighters), while British and American bombers attacked the bomb and rocket launching sites until they were captured by advancing Allied troops. Finally, after the war in Europe was over, a later version of the Fortress, the B-29, of the USAF, brought the war against Japan to a sudden close by dropping the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Far left, RAF bomber crews are briefed before taking off for a night raid over Germany, while their heavy Lancaster bombers, left, are loaded with bombs. Right, a Spitfire and a Hurricane (foreground) flying over the coast they defended with such success and fortitude.



THE WAR IN EUROPE

BY

FIELD MARSHAL LORD CARVER. THE OUTBREAK OF WAR DID NOT CHECK THE GERMANS' ONSLAUGHT THROUGH EUROPE. IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE INVASION OF RUSSIA THAT THE TIDE BEGAN TO TURN IN FAVOUR OF THE ALLIES.

Hitler returns a Nazi salute in his rabble-rousing days. He is wearing the Iron Cross, first class, won as a soldier in the First World War, with his party uniform. Rallies of this type were a typical method of bullying the German people into accepting hard-line National Socialist beliefs.



In the 1930s memories of the First World War, or propaganda based on them, united a variety of people, who on other subjects were not inclined to agree with each other, in a determination to avoid a commitment to land warfare on the Continent that might result in a repetition of the trench warfare of 1914-18. It was not only the peace and anti-military movements which took that line, but the political and military establishment also.

The admirals were determined to oppose a repeat of what they regarded as a disastrous

deviation from our traditional maritime strategy, claiming exaggerated influence for naval and economic blockade in bringing Germany to her knees in 1918. The air marshals pinned their faith on strategic bombing, aimed directly at the enemy's centre of political will, to make long and costly land and maritime campaigns unnecessary. Belief in this led politicians to be over-influenced by fear of the enemy's use of the same weapon. The generals, too, fought shy of such a commitment, preferring to keep their eyes on the requirements of imperial defence, in

particular the link with India through the Middle East. All were encouraged in this view by the eminent military historian and critic Basil Liddell Hart. All this strongly influenced the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, and his Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax, at the time of the Munich crisis in 1938.

By that time, however, the Royal Navy had realised that if German aircraft were able to operate from airfields in the Low Countries, its control of the English Channel and southern North Sea would be seriously threatened; and the Royal Air

Force had to accept that unless it could operate from those airfields, it would not be able to reach strategic targets in Germany. The admirals and air marshals therefore conceded that a very limited commitment should be made, designed to do no more than occupy the Low Countries, and in May, 1938, talks started with the French on a contingency plan to move two British divisions to France within 16 days of the outbreak of hostilities, to be followed, within the next eight weeks, by two more with a mobile division.

When war was declared in





The escape from Dunkirk: Shallow water was a problem in the evacuation of thousands of men under fire, as Fortunino Matania's drawing, above, shows.

Below, troops waded up to their necks in water to reach the rescue vessels sent from Britain.



September, 1939, the mobile division was not adequately equipped and four regular infantry divisions moved to France within five weeks. By May, 1940, when the Germans launched their attack on France and the Low Countries, these had been reinforced by one more regular and five Territorial Army divisions, while three more, almost untrained and with hardly any equipment, were sent over, bringing the strength of the British Expeditionary Force under General Lord Gort, VC, to almost 400,000.

In accordance with the plan agreed with the French High Command, Gort's divisions moved forward from the defences laboriously prepared during the "Phoney War" to the river Dyle in Belgium. It was not long before the dramatic German breakthrough farther to the south forced them to withdraw, and, after little fighting, though bombarded from the air, almost the whole of Gort's force was encircled: 224,320 British troops were evacuated from Dunkirk and its beaches.

The formations that had escaped encirclement were reinforced through Cherbourg by those units of the 1st Armoured Division that could be made operational, the whole force, placed under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir Alan Brooke, totalling 140,000. But after the encirclement of the 51st Highland Division at St-Valéry the French were clearly in a state of collapse, and Brooke persuaded Churchill to agree to evacuation through Cherbourg. This was successfully completed without loss, except for almost all the equipment and stores. After Dunkirk and Cherbourg, 39,251 men had been left in enemy hands as prisoners of war, with 2,472 guns and 63,874 vehicles of all kinds. Casualties had been 4,438 killed, 14,127 wounded and 10,925 missing.

If it had done nothing else, the collapse of the Continental commitment had saved Britain from a repetition of 1914-18.

The débâcle in France had followed an equally humiliating defeat in Norway. This had its origins in the French desire to keep the war away from France and their support for an attempt, strongly favoured by Churchill, then at the Admiralty, to block the supply of Swedish iron ore to Germany through Norway and its territorial waters, combined with help to Finland in her gallant resistance to Russian attack.



Whether or not it was that which provoked the German invasion of Denmark and Norway, German action pre-empted it; and, although British and French troops recaptured Narvik, their defeat farther south meant that when the Germans attacked in France and the Low Countries, Narvik had to be abandoned.

After Dunkirk the outlook was gloomy to say the least, but Churchill was determined to inspire the nation and its armed forces with defiance, however much it might be whistling in the dark. While Britain itself faced aerial onslaught and the possibility of amphibious invasion, his aggressive spirit sought some method of retaliation. The only options available, apart from attack on the forces of Germany's hyena-like ally Italy, which was threatening Egypt from Libya, were strategic bombing, raids on

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the occupied coastline and attempts to encourage resistance in the countries overrun.

On June 4, the last day of the evacuation from Dunkirk, Churchill minuted his chief of staff, General Ismay: "The completely defensive habit of mind which has ruined the French must not be allowed to ruin all our initiative. It is of the highest consequence to keep the largest number of German forces all along the coasts of the countries they have conquered, and we should immediately set to work to organise raiding on these coasts where the populations are friendly . . . How wonderful it would be if the Germans could be made to wonder where they are going to be struck next, instead of forcing us to try and wall in the Island and roof it over! An effort should be made to shake off the mental and moral prostration to the will

and initiative of the enemy from which we suffer."

This was the origin of the formation of commandos, raised from both the Royal Marines and the Army. Churchill had to apply constant pressure on the War Office, which objected to priority being given to special forces while the rest of the Army was desperately short of equipment. At the same time the Prime Minister appointed his old friend Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes as director of Combined Operations to see that opportunities for the use of commandos were created and exploited. It was not long before Keyes found himself at loggerheads with the chiefs of staff. When they demanded that his title should be changed from that of director to adviser he resigned. To replace him Churchill appointed Captain Lord Louis Mountbatten,

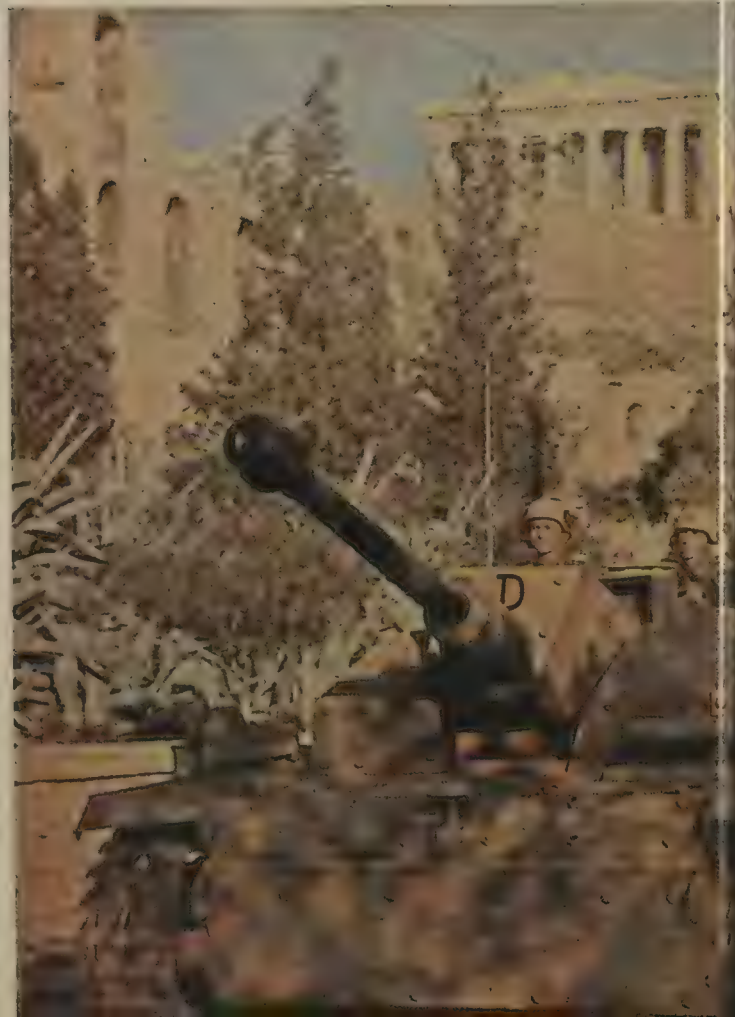
promoted commodore, who had recently taken part in yet another disastrous Continental conflict with the Germans—that in Greece and Crete.

The brief campaign there had its origin both in Mussolini's invasion of Greece from Albania in October, 1940, and Hitler's concern to secure both his oil supplies from Romania and his right flank before he embarked on his attack on Russia. At first the Greeks, under their virtual dictator General Metaxas, were reluctant to accept British help for fear of provoking German attack, but Anthony Eden, now Foreign Secretary, was intent on persuading Turkey to join resistance to Germany, and he believed that Greek acceptance of British help was essential to that. He was also influenced by the need to convince the United States, where the Lend-Lease Bill

Emphasising a bitter irony for the French, German soldiers paraded with gun carriages along an avenue radiating from the Arc de Triomphe in Paris to show the conquered the power of the Third Reich in capturing the capital in a matter of weeks.

was under consideration, that Britain was prepared to fight the Germans and not restrict her operations to their weaker ally.

When Metaxas died, just as General Sir Richard O'Connor had completely defeated the Italian Tenth Army south of Benghazi in Libya in February, 1941, the Greek government accepted the dispatch of an expeditionary force from Egypt in the expectation that Yugoslavia, too, would resist German attack. That invasion was brutally delivered on April 6, Greece being attacked the same day. Threatened with encirclement, General Sir Henry





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Wilson's largely Australian and New Zealand army was forced to withdraw as Greece collapsed, 50,700 of his 65,000 men being evacuated, 20,000 of them to Crete, where there were already many troops. Crete was attacked on May 20, its defence collapsing 10 days later. About 18,000 were evacuated.

Two events later in that year revolutionised Britain's hitherto apparently hopeless strategic situation: the German invasion of Russia in June and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December. The first meant that

Opposite page, top, a German armoured column advances in Serbia; far left, Hitler meets Mussolini; left, a German tank in Athens after the conquest of Greece. Above, Monte Cassino, a place of bitter fighting and, right, 'Tommies' in the struggle for Italy. Top, paratroops on D-Day.

thereafter, until the end of the war, by far the greater part of Germany's war effort, particularly of her armies, was devoted to the titanic struggle on the eastern front, in which she suffered extremely heavy losses; the second, that the balance of world

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THE PEARL HARBOR

Above, Americans in their landing craft wait for the moment when it will ground and they can leap out and fight on French soil. Opposite page, top, Private 1st Class Edward Regan swims to Omaha Beach early on D-Day; bottom, Royal Marine commandos wade ashore in the British sector of the enemy coastline.



MEMPHIS

Above, General Omar Bradley saw active service in North Africa and Sicily before taking command of the US First Army, units of which landed at Omaha and Utah beaches. Later, as the Allies spread deeper into Europe, he led more than 1,250,000 men.

power was shifted in Britain's favour. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, which brought the United States into the war against Germany, Churchill went to Washington to confer with Roosevelt and obtained confirmation of an earlier highly significant agreement that defeat of Germany should take precedence over a campaign against Japan.

Thus began a long series of arguments about how this was to be accomplished, the Americans intent on the most direct strategy, that is crossing the Channel and advancing into Germany's heartland, which incidentally would be seen by Stalin as helping him most directly, while Churchill and his chiefs of staff preferred a more indirect approach, similar to that of a Spanish bull-fight. Every effort should be made to weaken the enemy before attempting the *coup de grâce*.

The American chiefs of staff were reluctant to accept that a cross-Channel operation could not be launched in 1942. A compromise was reached on a plan, named Sledgehammer, to land a few divisions on the Continent to hold a limited area to serve as a

bridgehead for a full-scale invasion not later than April, 1943. The British chiefs of staff, who had grave doubts about the concept, managed to insist that it should be undertaken only if German strength in France had been significantly reduced or if Russia seemed to be in imminent danger of collapse. Churchill kept up pressure on them to do something, if not in France, at least in Norway, to meet Stalin's insistent demand for action to divert German pressure from the Russian front.

The result of these pressures, linked with the need to find something active for the Canadian forces based in Britain to do, was a fatal compromise in the form of a more ambitious "raid" on the French coast than those successfully carried out in February, 1942, on the radar station at Bruneval and in March on the dock gates at St-Nazaire, designed to prevent the German battleship *Tirpitz* from going to sea. The military purpose of the "raid" on Dieppe on August 19 was never clear, and the result was disastrous. The only good that came of it was to prove that

amphibious landings on a well-defended coast needed much greater preparation, fire support and special equipment than had yet been devoted to them.

A few days before the operation Montgomery assumed command of the Eighth Army in Egypt; and at the end of that month the tide of war turned, with Rommel's repulse at the battle of Alam Halfa, followed by his defeat at El Alamein at the end of October, while Anglo-American forces under Eisenhower landed in French North Africa a few weeks before the tide turned decisively on the Russian front at Stalingrad.

There was now no need to consider desperate measures to prevent a Russian collapse, but the Americans' demand to keep to the timetable for a major cross-Channel operation in 1943 was intensified as they saw the commitment of forces to the Mediterranean being reduced. Their hopes were pinned on a rapid link-up between Montgomery's and Eisenhower's troops, allowing the US forces to be transferred to Britain early in 1943.

The issue was argued out at



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the Casablanca conference in January, 1943, by which time it was clear that the North African campaign would drag on at least for another few months. While the Americans initially stuck to their demand to transfer all US forces to Britain when the campaign ended, they eventually gave way reluctantly to the British argument that it would not be possible to launch a cross-Channel operation until the summer of 1944, and that the aim for 1943 should be to knock Italy out of the war. They agreed that once Tunisia was cleared, Eisenhower's forces should capture Sicily, on condition that priority was given to the build-up in Britain for the cross-Channel operation, now named Overlord, with a target date of May, 1944.

The campaign ended with the German surrender near Tunis in May, 1943. Sicily was cleared in the middle of August, by which time Italian surrender looked possible. The Americans agreed that Eisenhower's forces, most of which would be from the British Commonwealth, would extend operations to the mainland of Italy, with the prime object of



LOPPIAN



Above, the assault on the Reichstag, the parliamentary building in Berlin. Below left, an old lady contemplates the toll of war. Opposite top, General Eisenhower, his set features betraying horror, sees for himself the carnage in the Ohrdruf concentration camp.

drawing German forces away from being able to oppose Overlord. When Italy surrendered as Eisenhower's forces landed at Salerno in September, it was agreed that he should exploit as far as Rome, which he was expected to reach by the end of the year, after which American and French forces would be released both for Overlord and for a landing in the south of France, codenamed Anvil.

Rome was not reached until June 4, 1944, two days before Overlord was finally launched, the tough and prolonged fighting in Italy having achieved its main aim of diverting German effort from other fronts. Thereafter Italy was accorded a low priority in face of protests from Churchill, who had ambitious and unrealistic ideas of linking up with Tito in Yugoslavia and possibly beating the Russians to Vienna.

Hopes were also disappointed

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in Normandy. Instead of a steady expansion of the bridgehead created by the success of the landings, allowing for the step by step deployment of all the US forces available and the establishment of airfields in France to support them, the British and American troops under Montgomery found themselves constricted for two months to the bocage of Normandy by Hitler's decision to fight the battle in that area. It proved a blessing in disguise, particularly for the French outside Normandy, as it meant that, once the break-out came in August, there was virtually no more fighting in France until the Germans held General Patton near Metz early in September.

Allied success had not eliminated Anglo-US disagreement. The Americans had become very frustrated over the delay in breaking out from the Normandy bridgehead and laid a high share of the blame, much of it unfairly, on Montgomery. Once it was achieved and Eisenhower was in full command, a major argument erupted over strategy and it continued until the end of the war. Montgomery, who was backed by Churchill and Brooke, wished

to concentrate a force of at least 40 divisions, most of which would have to be American, to drive through Belgium to cross the Meuse and Rhine to encircle the Ruhr from the north, which he believed could bring the war to an end in 1944. Eisenhower, anxious to develop the full strength of the US forces available, preferred an advance on all fronts, giving priority to the north. He feared, with justification, that a single thrust in one sector would allow the Germans to concentrate against it, and that such a thrust beyond the Rhine could not be maintained logistically until Antwerp was open as a port. The failure of Montgomery's unrealistic airborne operation at Arnhem, although strongly favoured by Eisenhower, destroyed Montgomery's hopes and undermined his standing with the Americans.

In the event Eisenhower's strategy was vindicated. There is little validity in the contention that the war could have been brought to an end in 1944, or that the Anglo-American forces could have reached Berlin before the Russians and thereby altered the subsequent course of European history.

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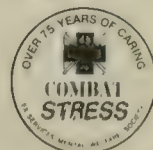
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AFTER TAKING FRANCE AND LOSING THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN, HITLER TURNED EAST AND MARCHED AGAINST HIS FORMER ALLY. BUT THE RED ARMY AND THE RUSSIAN WINTER DEFEATED HIM.

THE WAR IN RUSSIA

More than three million German troops attacked Russia on a 1,800-mile front in June, 1941, left. In spite of Stalin's premonition that this might happen, the Soviets were initially ill prepared, and bombing by their air force failed to halt the advance of Nazi tanks and infantry, right. From 1943 the tide began to turn and the Red Army, below, started to inflict heavy losses on the German forces. The Soviet Union's greatest ally was the fierce Russian winter, below left, which plagued Hitler's army as it had that of Napoleon 130 years earlier. In January, 1943, Marshal Zhukov's troops re-took Leningrad from the Germans, driving relentlessly westwards throughout 1944 until, after capturing Hungary, Poland and Austria, they took Berlin on May 2, 1945.

Germany had signed a Non-Aggression Pact with the Soviet Union on August 23, 1939, but neither party seemed disposed to regard it as binding. Hitler began building up his armies along the Russian front in 1940, as soon as France had been defeated, and Stalin, though sending the Soviet government's warmest congratulations to Germany on the splendid success of its armed forces, was not wholly taken in by the protestations of German friendship. He told the British ambassador in Moscow, Stafford Cripps, that he expected a German attack in 1941, and he proved to be right, for the Germans launched their invasion of Russia on June 22 of that year. However, Stalin's intuition did



THE TOP LEFT PHOTO IS FROM THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS PICTURE LIBRARY



not seem to have led to any real preparation. More than three million German troops attacked along a front of some 1,800 miles, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and clearly took the Russians by surprise. The Germans quickly captured Minsk, Kiev, Kharkov and Rostov and by the end of the year were laying siege to Leningrad and Moscow. Stalin, acknowledging the general retreat, called on the Russian people to follow the example of their ancestors during the Napoleonic invasion and destroy everything in the path of the invader.

Once more the Russian winters played their part. Although the Germans began to close the ring around Moscow, forcing the Soviet government to move to Kuybyshev, on the Volga, they had, in the words of a Berlin spokesman, to "suspend campaigning until the spring", when Moscow could be taken.

It was not taken, and neither, in spite of long sieges, was Leningrad or Stalingrad. In January, 1943, the German commander in Stalingrad, Field Marshal Paulus, surrendered, and the architect of the Soviet victory there, Marshal Zhukov, moved to Leningrad, where he contrived to pierce the German line, relieving the city and driving the invaders into retreat, along with those farther south.

Throughout 1944 the Russian armies continued their relentless drive westwards, clearing the Crimea and capturing Romania and Bulgaria and, in the following year, Poland, Hungary and Austria. Finally, on May 2, 1945, they took Berlin.

The Battle of Stalingrad, the turning-point of the war for the Russians, raged fiercely for more than three months as the Red Army struggled to eject the German forces. In spite of Hitler's insistence that the battle be fought to a successful conclusion and no retreat be tolerated, the occupying German 6th Army was encircled by Soviet forces which prevented its relief by German columns. More than 200,000 Germans perished; the remaining 91,000 surrendered in January, 1943. Terence Cuneo was one of a number of war artists working for The Illustrated London News and this drawing, from the early days of the siege, shows what was referred to as "the most furious battle in the world's history".

CUNEO



British armour on the move after the Allied invasion of Sicily, known as Operation Husky, launched in July and completed in 38 days.

The Mohne and Eder dams, right, were breached by bouncing bombs dropped by RAF Lancasters in May, a drawing published in the *ILN* at the time.



Waafs at work on a balloon site in Coventry, painted by Laura Knight in 1943.



The German eastwards push into Russia was halted at Stalingrad when, at the end of January, Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus surrendered as the Russians began to tighten the noose that surrounded the besieged city. Meanwhile at Leningrad the railway link with Moscow was restored and the siege of that city also began to crack as the German armies went into retreat. Before the end of the year the Russians recaptured Rostov and Kiev and were well on the way to expelling the invaders entirely from Russian territory. German troops met with no more success in North Africa: the British captured Tripoli in January and by early May were in Tunis while at the same time the Americans moved into Bizerte. The Germans in North Africa surrendered on

May 12, and the Allies began to look to their next objective, Italy. A joint Anglo-American assault was launched on Sicily in July. Palermo was captured within two weeks and Messina within a month. On July 25 Mussolini was and in September, following an invasion of Allied troops across the Strait of Messina, the new Italian government announced its unconditional surrender. The German forces in Italy did not give in and, though they took Naples in October, the Allies could make only slow progress in the face of determined defence. In Poland the Germans completed their destruction of the Warsaw ghetto in May, 14,000 Jews being killed or dispatched to death camps and three times as many sent to labour camps. RAF Lancasters carried out a daring raid on the Möhne and Eder dams in May, dropping new bombs, designed by Dr Barnes Wallis, that rebounded from the surface of the water and bounced along it until reaching the dams, when they sank until water pressure set off their fuses. In July Lancasters carried out three raids on Hamburg, dropping more than 8,000 tons of bombs, creating huge firestorms and causing immense damage to the city. The Lancasters were protected by the new "window" device of bundles of metal foil which, dropped over the target, confused enemy radars about the exact position of Allied aircraft. Later in the year the RAF began a series of major raids on Berlin as Churchill, Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin met in Tehran to plan the next step for winning the war—Operation Overlord, an Allied attack on northern France the following year.

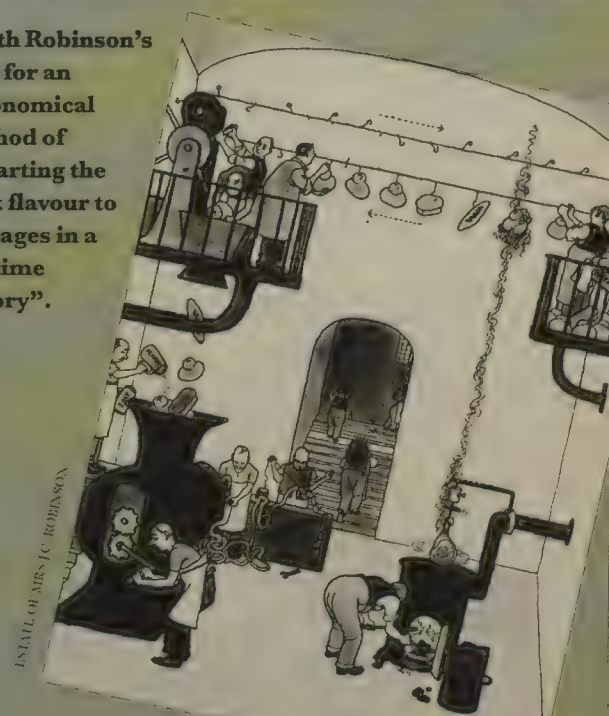
Actor Leslie Howard, far right, with David Niven in the film *The First of the Few*, was killed in an air crash in June. Right, Clark Gable abandoned films to serve in the US Eighth Army Air Force.



The Big Three met for the first time at Tehran, below.



Heath Robinson's idea for an "economical method of imparting the pork flavour to sausages in a wartime factory".



1943



The Allied invasion of Europe began on June 6. Above, infantry wading ashore, some carrying bicycles. Left the Mulberry artificial harbour, built once the beachhead had been secured.

General MacArthur, US Commander in the Far East, below, wading ashore with men of the US Sixth Army at Leyte in the reconquered Philippines in October.

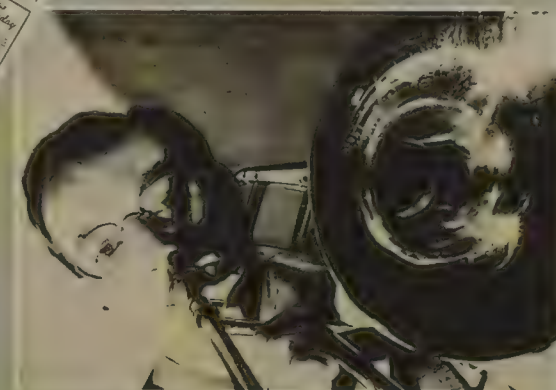
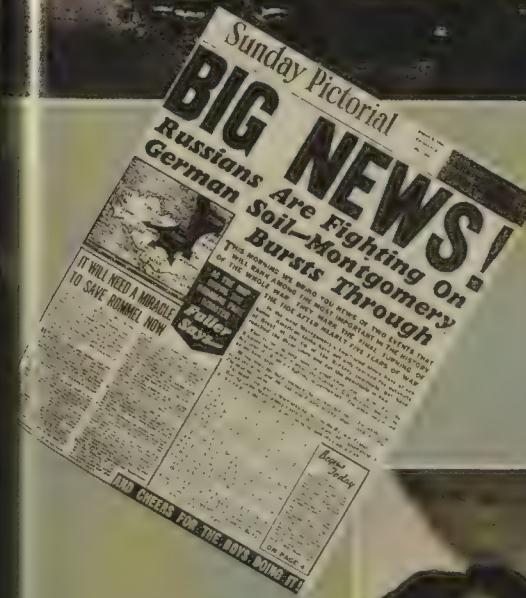


American troops in a victory march in Paris, above, and, above right, outside the Colosseum after the fall of Rome.

The sinister shape of a V1—the flying bomb—top, which Hitler launched against England soon after D-Day.



Soviet forces under the command of Marshal Georgi Zhukov, above, attacked on all fronts, forcing the Germans out of Russia.



Hitler survived an assassination attempt in July but was slightly injured and gave his left hand to Mussolini when they met soon afterwards.



Sir Henry Wood, founder of the Promenade Concerts, right, died in August and Major Glen Miller, US band leader, left, in December.

1944

Allied troops landed at Anzio to establish a new beach-head in Italy but met with strong German resistance after Hitler ordered that the attack "must be crushed in the blood of British soldiers". After weeks of heavy fighting there and around Monte Cassino Allied troops finally broke through, and on June 4 captured Rome. In the Far East Allied forces were also making progress, and in October US General Douglas MacArthur was able to fulfil his promise to return to the Philippines. The second front in Europe finally began when US General Dwight Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, gave the go-ahead for Operation Overlord to begin on the morning of June 6, after having postponed the invasion for a day because of rough weather. In Britain the preparations had been going on for months. The Channel coast from Norfolk to Land's End had become a vast collection-point for tanks and military vehicles, shells and other equipment and for tents housing many thousands of men, while rivers and ports were crammed with landing-craft. The D-Day invasion was a massive combined operation involving British, American and Canadian

land, sea, and airborne forces and guerrilla operations by the French resistance. The first wave involved five seaborne and three airborne divisions, followed by a second wave of 13 divisions, including 1,500 tanks, which were piled onto the Normandy beach-head within a week. This armada was ferried and escorted across the Channel by 5,300 ships and landing-craft and 12,000 aircraft. Once the beach-head had been secured two artificial harbours, known as Mulberries, were constructed to ease the flow of supplies. Progress at first was slow, though Paris was taken in late August and Brussels shortly afterwards. In September an attempt to shorten the war by dropping the British 1st Airborne Division behind enemy lines at Arnhem to seize bridges across the Rhine proved a gallant failure and showed that the Germans were still far from beaten. People in Britain had a forceful reminder of this when, soon after D-Day, a new "secret weapon", the V1, was launched on London and the south of England, to be followed later in the year by the V2 rocket, which hit London in September. There was a further sting in the last weeks of the year when German forces launched a fierce counter-attack in the Ardennes.



THE WAR IN THE DESERT

BY BARRIE PITT.

FIGHTING IN AFRICA BEGAN WITH TOTAL VICTORY OVER THE ITALIANS. THEN CAME ROMMEL, WHO PUSHED THE BRITISH BACK TO ALAMEIN UNTIL HE WAS FINALLY SWEEPED OUT OF AFRICA ALTOGETHER.

The Western Desert became a battlefield in the Second World War because of the necessity to protect Middle East oil supplies and because the Italian forces in Libya were separated from the British troops by nothing more substantial than a double wire fence that delineated the desert border with Egypt.

Italy entered the war on June 10, 1940, and within days had lost some 400 men to units of General Richard O'Connor's Western Desert Force which mounted raids across the wire. Incensed, Mussolini ordered Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, Italian commander-in-chief, Libya, to invade Egypt and drive the British back over the Nile. In due

course Graziani assembled his Tenth Army, sent it into Egypt on September 13 and in four days it had advanced 65 miles to Sidi Barrani, where it halted to await the construction of a pipeline and a metalled road along which it could receive supplies. British forces in the Middle East were at that time busily engaged in Abyssinia, so it was December 8



before O'Connor could launch his forces into a gap conveniently left between the Italian defence positions south of Sidi Barrani. There they turned and destroyed those defences from the rear, cut all advanced Italian communications and, aided by Royal Navy shelling, RAF bombing and delayed but enthusiastic reinforcement by the 7th Australian Division, drove across the border into Cyrenaica.

By the end of January, Bardia, Tobruk and Derna were in Australian hands while the 7th Armoured Division had taken Mechili, and from RAF reconnaissance reports it seemed that the remaining Italian forces in the area were preparing to flee south from Benghazi down the coast road and around the corner into the Libyan hinterland. O'Connor's 30,000-strong force (against 80,000 Italian troops in Egypt alone) had suffered some 500 casualties and those who were left were exhausted; but the chance was too good to miss. Somehow the Australians forced themselves onwards around the Cyrenaican bulge, and somehow

the 7th Armoured heaved their way over often appalling roads and tracks first to Msus and down to Antelat, then to send their leading units across to Beda Fomm and the coast road. They arrived there on the night of February 5/6, 1941, and within an hour the leading units of the Italian Tenth Army came bowling unconcernedly down the road towards them, totally unaware of the presence of hostile forces. After a brief exchange of shots, darkness ended the action—but it was evident that in the morning those few isolated British reconnaissance units would face a serious situation.

As it happened, support arrived during the night, and by dawn a rifle battalion together with some anti-tank guns had joined them in the narrow confines across the road. And as daylight broke, rifles, machine guns and light artillery opened such a barrage on the head of the Italian column—whose position prevented supporting fire from troops behind—that confusion engulfed it. Before the situation could be resolved, the rest of the

7th Armoured Division poured over the last of the Gebel foothills and attacked the flanks of the long and bewildered column, already beset by the pursuing Australians. It was too much for the Italians. Soon a few white flags fluttered throughout the column, then more and more until its entire length was a river of white.

The Italian Tenth Army of five divisions had surrendered to two armoured brigades and the support group of the 7th Armoured Division in that military rarity a complete victory.

Complete or not, it was the last victory British forces were to win in the desert for some time. On the very day that O'Connor's forward patrols had probed on south to reach El Agheila, a comparatively unknown German commander, Generalleutnant Erwin Rommel, had flown into Tripoli, soon to be followed by a panzer division and the elements of a light division. And as Hitler had also ordered the invasion of Yugoslavia, the experienced units of O'Connor's force (newly renamed XIII Corps) were then

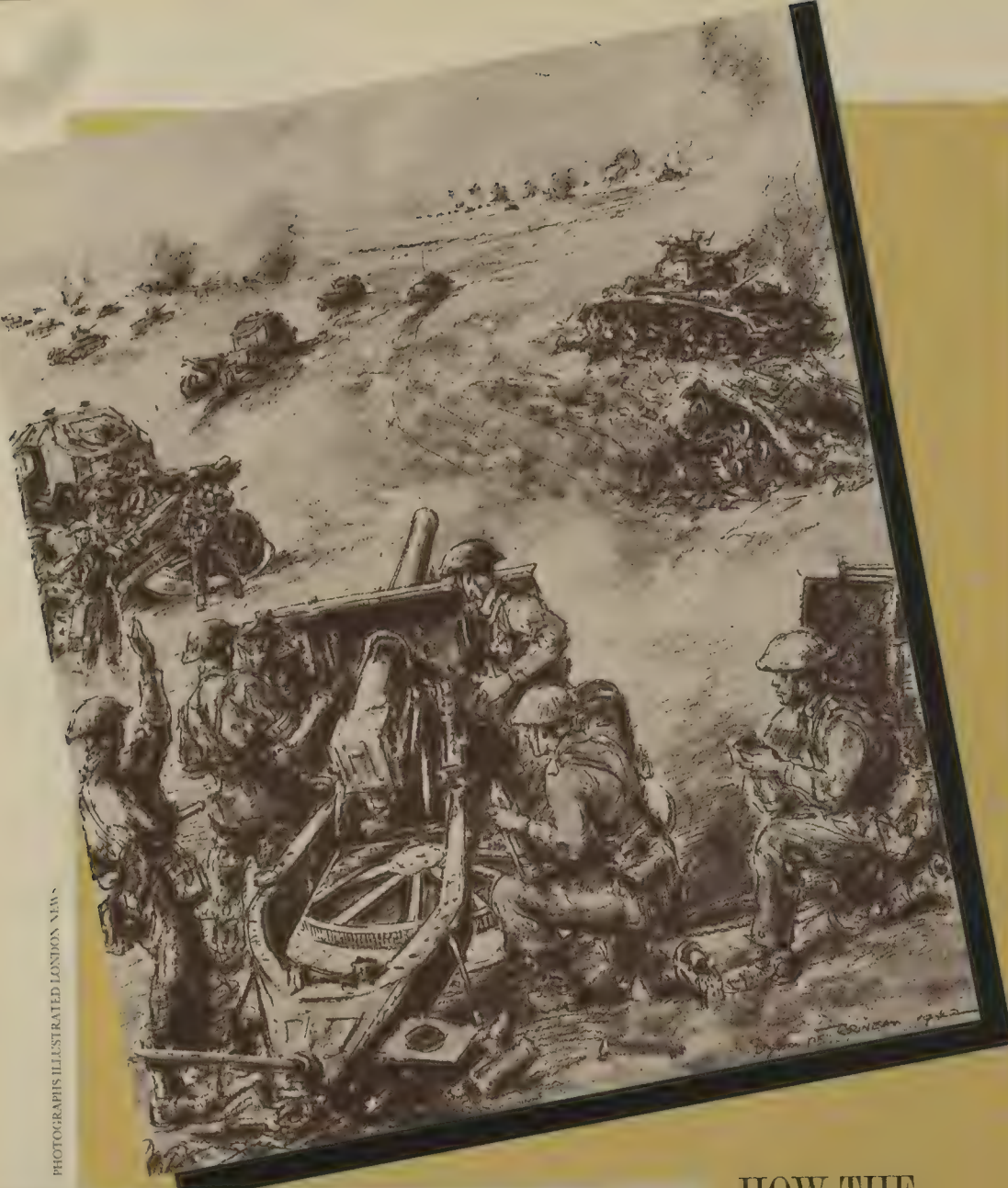
transferred across the Mediterranean to counter this move, and the totally inexperienced 2nd Armoured Division was fed in to replace them.

Rommel waited until March 31, then sent reconnaissance units past El Agheila to Agadabia. Quickly appreciating the quality of the opposition facing him, he followed up with his panzers. By April 6 they were at Mechili and by the 11th they were probing the defences of Tobruk; by mid-April the British had withdrawn even further and apart from the garrison at Tobruk were back behind the Egyptian frontier.

Even more serious, O'Connor had been taken prisoner; the second phase of what had by now been dubbed "the Benghazi

Field Marshal Rommel, the "Desert Fox", top left, commanded the Axis troops with great flair, pushing the British back to the Egyptian border until the Eighth Army's counter-attack, left, forced him to retreat. Below, a long line of German prisoners after their capture during the battle of El Alamein.





HOW THE WAR WAS REPORTED

News of the fighting in the desert was brought back to Britain in varied form: by traditional war correspondents sending back their censored dispatches for their newspapers and magazines, by vivid actuality recordings for later transmission on BBC radio, by still photographers and movie cameramen, and by war artists. One of the artists at work for The Illustrated London News then was Bryan de Grineau, whose drawing of the British 25-pounder in action against the German panzers, above, was published in January, 1942. Left, a sergeant of the Army film photographic unit at work in the desert, filming alongside a Bren gunner.



Handicap" was undoubtedly a win for Rommel—and so were the next two phases.

In May a small operation aptly named Brevity did nothing but prove the superiority of German panzer tactics, and in mid-June Operation Battleaxe repeated the demonstration, at a cost, moreover, of 91 Matilda tanks with which XIII Corps had recently been supplied by stripping Britain itself of its main defence forces.

The result of this was the replacement of General Sir Archibald Wavell as commander-in-chief, Middle East, by General Sir Claude Auchinleck, who took over at the end of June, and despite urgings from Churchill waited five months before agreeing that his forces might now be capable of dealing with the Germans.

Operation Crusader opened during the weekend of November 16 and 17, 1941, with the whole of what had now been named the Eighth Army—100,000 men, 600 tanks and 5,000 assorted cars and lorries—crossing the frontier into Libya and then, to the astonishment of everyone who had been there previously, splitting into three parts, which set off in different directions.

It ended on December 28 in bad weather and worse temper at El Agheila, and although the British commanders had some reason for satisfaction, the troops were disgusted. The casualty rate, in their opinion unnecessarily high, had been brought about by slipshod organisation, and Rommel had been beaten far more by the efforts of the Royal Navy and the RAF, in starving him of petrol, than by anything the Army had managed.

At the end of their advance, the Eighth Army were an organisational shambles, of which Rommel was shrewdly aware, and he waited only 16 days before striking back. By February 2, the Eighth Army were hurriedly digging themselves into a defence line running south from Gazala down to Bir Hakeim—300 miles back from El Agheila, with Tobruk only 35 miles behind them. Churchill showed admirable fortitude and patience. "One can only deserve victory," he said, "not expect it." He ordered that once again every tank, every gun, every trained soldier that could be spared from other theatres be sent to Egypt. Surely now the Eighth Army could deal with the Germans? It was a vain hope. On May 27,



The victorious British commander in the desert, General Montgomery, predicted a "rough-house battle" at El Alamein, and so it was, though the men under his command had also to find time to do their washing and darn their clothes, below, as well as to cook occasional delicacies.

did was to announce that there would be no more withdrawal. "If we cannot stay here alive, let us stay here dead!" The next was to state clearly and unmistakably what would happen in the next battle—and the date—and on August 31 the battle of Alam Halfa followed his predictions exactly. We won it and we approached the next battle with confidence.

The battle of El Alamein opened on the evening of October 23 with a barrage the like of which we had never heard, and for the next 10 days we fought "a real rough-house battle" as Monty had predicted, until the evening of November 2 when Commonwealth infantry and British armour broke through in the northern sector.

That ended the battle of El Alamein, though months of bitter fighting remained before North Africa was wholly in Allied hands. The Desert War had lasted two years and four months and had cost countless lives. At Alamein alone the Eighth Army lost 13,500 in killed and wounded—including, as always, the bravest and the best.

Rommel led his men in a sweep around the south of the Gazala Line and threw the Eighth Army back another 400 miles in what has been called "a progression of avoidable disasters" to El Alamein. This time even Tobruk was left in Rommel's hands.

Churchill described this as "one of the heaviest blows I can recall".

The Prime Minister arrived in Cairo to sort matters out on August 3; by the 7th he had decided on necessary improvements; on the 12th Lieutenant-

General Bernard Montgomery arrived and by the end of the month an extraordinary change had taken place throughout the Army. As a German officer said later: "When Montgomery came out, the war in the desert stopped being a game!" The first thing he



WAR THE PACIFIC & FAR EAST

BY LOUIS HEREN.

PEARL HARBOR IGNITED A CONFLICT THAT HAD
BEEN FESTERING FOR A DECADE IN THE FAR EAST.



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS PICTURE LIBRARY



The war in the Pacific and the Far East began on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese fleet bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Three of the eight battleships anchored there were sunk, a fourth capsized and the others were badly damaged. Cruisers and destroyers were also hit, and of the 126 aircraft on the ground only 43 were left fit for service.

Japan achieved its infamous victory largely by surprise but, as with Hitler in Europe, there had been several indications that Japan's military commanders were determined to achieve hegemony in east Asia. The Mukden incident in 1931 was the first overt act, and within a few years large areas of China were occupied and their natural resources, such as coal, iron and

farm products, exploited for further aggression. The capital of China, Nanking, was captured in December, 1937, and the USS *Panay*, a Yangtze river gunboat, was bombed as an act of defiance against the United States. The League of Nations was contemptuously ignored, and after the declaration of war in Europe both Britain and France tried to appease the new aggressor.

Britain closed the Burma Road, the main artery for military supplies to China, after the Tientsin agreement. France permitted Japanese troops to enter Indo-China and use local airports to bomb south-west China. On September 29, 1940, Japan signed a tripartite treaty with Germany and Italy. The United States responded with an embargo on aviation fuel, steel and

scrap metal, but it was too little and too late.

The British battleship *Prince of Wales* and the battle-cruiser *Repulse* were sunk only three days after the destruction of the American Pacific fleet, and Japanese attacks were launched against Hong Kong, Burma, Malaya, Singapore, the Philippines, the Netherlands East Indies and the island of Guam. The ill-prepared de-fenders were soon overcome, and some 64,000 British, Australian and Indian troops were forced to surrender. It was a blitzkrieg of unparalleled dimensions; all the European colonial empires fell, and India was threatened from Burma. Only China continued to resist.

The psychological effects were profound, creating the dangerous myth that Japanese troops

were invincible. They were certainly tough and well led, and their battle experience in China was incomparable. That was not all. Their belief that the emperor was of divine origin nurtured a fanaticism and ruthlessness beyond western understanding.

They fought to the death rather than surrender, and took few prisoners. After the capture of Nanking they had plunged into one of the biggest slaughters in human history. Civilians were roped together and machine-gunned for sport, and few women escaped rape and death. This sadism persisted throughout the war: the brutal treatment of Allied prisoners of war forced to build the death railway in Thailand was but one example. The world had seen nothing like it since the time of Genghis Khan.



A bomb finds its target in the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, above left, and sailors in small boats and fire-floats fight the blaze on the US battleship West Virginia, above. Right, British soldiers in Singapore surrender.

The Japanese victory seemed complete, at least for a few months. The Pacific west of Hawaii had become a vast and seemingly uncrossable moat. The lines of communication between the United States and Australia—which under General MacArthur was to become the main base for future American counter-attacks—were almost cut at Guadalcanal and Papua New Guinea. Exhausted British and Indian troops in northern Burma seemed unlikely to prevent the invasion of India.

In fact, Japan had almost





shot its bolt. Even before Pearl Harbor, the high command had to change its strategy in China because of the vastness of its territory and the tenacious resistance of the Nationalist forces. The sack of Nanking had no more broken the Chinese than Nazi terrorism had broken the Russians and, as in the Soviet Union, the Chinese could always retreat into the hinterland.

Perhaps too little credit was given to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, but Japan's greatest strategic error was to bomb the United States into the war. If it had not attacked Pearl Harbor, the western colonial empires in south-east Asia could have been conquered without fear of American intervention. Its Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere might well have survived.

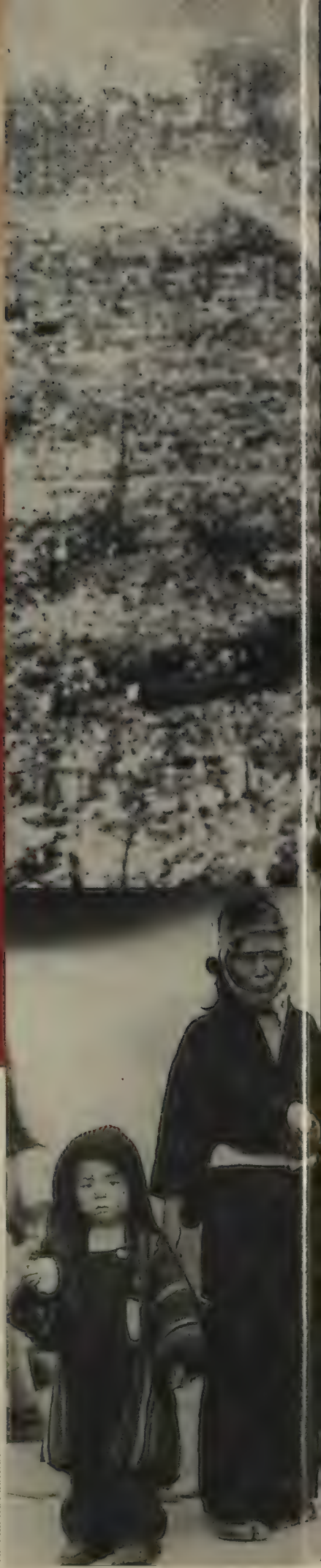
The Allies nevertheless halted a three-pronged Japanese attack in a series of ferocious battles in the Arakan and Kohima, and saved India. An irregular formation known as Force 136 was parachuted into the hill tracts of Burma, Malaya and other former colonial possessions to organise local resistance behind the Japanese lines. Work began on building a new Burma Road from Ledo in India, and supplies for the Chinese were also flown over the Hump, the mountain range separating the two countries.

General Slim's Fourteenth Army, the so-called Forgotten Army, became a formidable force. It probably killed more Japanese than any other army, but strategically Burma became a side-show when the US joint chiefs of staff decided that the

main offensive would be launched across the Pacific, that allegedly uncrossable moat. Admiral Nimitz's fleet would island-hop by way of the Gilberts, the Marianas, the Carolines and the Palaus, while General MacArthur's forces would advance from New Guinea to the Philippines.

With minor changes this became the road to victory, but a bloody one. The tenacity of the Japanese troops hardened—once battle had begun there was no question of tactical withdrawals from the islands—and American and Australian casualties were heavy. But Japan lost more men, and its fleets were badly mauled. For instance, three aircraft carriers and more than 400 aircraft were lost in the Marianas.

Moreover, the attack on Pearl



YOSHIO YAMAMOTO/AGF/UN



THE ATOMIC BOMB



Above, the skeleton of a Roman Catholic church and an unidentified building were all that remained in Hiroshima after the Flying Fortress aircraft piloted by Lieut Col Paul W. Tibbitts dropped the first atomic bomb. The New York Post was one of many newspapers to bring out a special edition, left, and back at base on Guam, Col Tibbitts, right, held a press conference. Three days after Hiroshima, the atomic mushroom rose again, this time over Nagasaki, where less than 24 hours later two survivors were found wandering, far left.





ROBERT HUNT

Above, the Japanese surrender was signed by US Admiral Nimitz on board Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Below, half-naked British and American prisoners of war greet the Allied troops near Yokohama.



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Harbor had been but a partial success. Little or no damage was done to shore installations such as power plants and oil-storage facilities, and the three aircraft carriers of the Pacific fleet were at sea at that time. Their escape compensated for the destruction of elderly battleships whose days were already numbered. And, of supreme importance, American industry was motivated to produce enough ships, tanks, guns and all the paraphernalia of modern war to fight in Europe as well as in the Pacific and the Far East.

The resilience of the United States Navy became apparent within less than a year at the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway. The first guaranteed the supply lines to Australia, and the second removed further threats to Pearl Harbor. Midway, where the Japanese lost their first-line carrier force and many of their best pilots, was arguably the turning point of the Pacific war, but the long fight back was immensely costly in men and material.

The British response was necessarily slower; as well as being involved in the Middle East and

the Atlantic, Britain faced the problem that it took weeks to transport troops to the Far East. The men had to be conditioned to fight in the jungle—the Chin-dits showed the way—and the mountainous terrain of northern Burma must have horrified young conscripts from industrial areas.

The final phases of the war were grimly fought. The Americans landed in the Philippines against dogged resistance; the Fourteenth Army fought its way down to Rangoon, and made the Sittang Bend one of the bloodiest killing grounds of the war; and the Australians landed in Borneo and seized the oilfields in Brunei.

Casualties mounted further as the Allies began to threaten the Japanese home islands. The fighting in the Ryukyus, of which Okinawa was the largest island, was vicious. Japanese suicide planes and one-man rocket missiles sank 36 Allied ships and damaged 368. More than 760 Allied aircraft were destroyed. The American dead and wounded exceeded 39,000.

Such casualties were a terrible portent of what to expect when

Japan was invaded. The imperial navy and army had been decimated, the blockade was almost complete, but the Allied high command estimated that its own casualties could exceed 800,000.

This figure persuaded President Truman to drop the newly-developed atomic bomb, a decision that subsequently created moral outrage and demands for nuclear disarmament. Such reaction was understandable, but for the Allied leaders the only alternative to this would have been even more unacceptable.

The Allies' ultimatum demanding unconditional surrender was rejected, and on August 6, 1945, the bomb that dropped on Hiroshima killed thousands of civilians. The Japanese government still refused to accept defeat, and three days later a more powerful bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The ultimatum was accepted the following day, on condition that the emperor remained head of state; and the surrender was signed on September 2 aboard USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. The Pacific and Far Eastern war was finally over.

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RESISTANCE & SPECIAL OPERATIONS

BY M.R.D. FOOT.

*RESISTANCE TO GERMAN
OCCUPATION TOOK MANY FORMS
AND WAS SUPPORTED BY
BRITISH SECRET SERVICES AND
SPECIAL OPERATIONS.*



Resistance to Nazi occupation grew up in every occupied country, even at the end in Austria, usually taking time to do so. The Poles reacted instantly—they had foreseen trouble—and the Belgians, too, had had recent experience. It took weeks to develop in Norway, Yugoslavia and Greece, months in France and the Netherlands, and years in Denmark.

Service staff colleges now

shrug off resistance as of slight importance: Clausewitz said so, and is still taken for gospel. The dwindling band of survivors who took part in it, most of them civilians, most of them rank novices at their task when they began, know that Clausewitz—on this point at least—was wrong: resistance was vital, if only because it reasserted national self-respect for nations that had undergone a humiliating defeat.

Everywhere resistance helped

to lower the morale of occupying forces. In some Dutch towns, for example, when a German soldier entered a bar, all the Dutch present drank up and left. Sometimes it could exert actual military impact, not only by pinprick attacks. Polish railwaymen put more than 5,000 locomotives out of action during the Russo-German war, thus harming the Germans' already tenuous supply lines, though the Poles got no thanks from the Soviet secret

police who overran Poland eventually. When the Organisation Todt started to build the Atlantic Wall, a French house-painter stole a copy of the specification for all the concrete casemates, and it was in England a few weeks later (I handled a copy at Combined Operations HQ). It was a godsend to Army and Navy gunners planning the re-entry to the Continent. Above all, a party of nine Norwegians scuppered Hitler's plans to make an atomic



H. ROGER-VIOLETTE

bomb by attacks on a heavy-water plant in Rjukan, west of Oslo, and on its product.

There were three main fields of resistance activity: providing news about the enemy, hiding people from him, and subverting his regime by means of counter-propaganda, by go-slow, by sabotage, or even by direct attacks on his minions, his policemen and his troops. Such attacks sometimes provoked ghastly reprisals, such as the killing of

335 prisoners in the Ardeatine caves south-east of Rome in retaliation for the deaths of 32 Germans killed in a resistance attack on a marching column near by. Reprisals, instead of terrorising a population into submission, might in turn only make it more resistance-minded.

Providing news about the enemy was useful only if the news could be passed on to one of the Allied powers. The western Allies were in fact incomparably well

informed already, through the efforts of their decipher staffs; but such material was deadly secret, and its distribution was strictly limited. Subjects that the code-breakers could not cover, such as the exact arrangements for wiring off installations the enemy wanted to defend from ground attack, could be much better reported by spies on the occupied spot, provided that safe channels could be found for getting out their reports. Most of the enemy's

A German firing squad takes aim at a member of the French resistance, above. Wrecking trains was a favoured way of harassing the German forces occupying the country, far left.

successes in counter-espionage came as a result of breaking into these channels rather than through catching spies in the act.

Those who went into resistance needed bravery, and needed to mix with it obstinacy, patience, perseverance and luck.

Opportunity, and the eye to seize it, were everything. A tribute is owed to the railway workers throughout Europe, who took a leading part. In Germany the Gestapo was so fierce (a death sentence could follow being caught listening to a foreign broadcast) that there could not be much active resistance there; the heroic effort of July 20, 1944, that was to have killed Hitler, only debagged him and gave him the excuse for massacring some thousands of the old Prussian officer class.

Several more or less secret services stood by to help resistance in its various forms. In the Soviet Union the NKVD kept the partisans it encouraged under strict party control; it also kept a watchful eye on its local rival the GRU, which collected military intelligence. The British had many wartime secret services: three particularly affected resistance—the Secret Intelligence Service, the Special Operations Executive and the escape service. The escape service, working hand in glove with the American MIS-X, helped as many as 35,847 Allied service men, the world over, to get away from Axis back into Allied territory; and hundreds of thousands of Jews and other evaders were safely hidden by friends or strangers on the Continent. The American Office of Strategic Services, formed in July, 1942, ran both intelligence and subversive operations with panache.

The British developed the Commandos in 1940 and the Special Air Service in 1941, bodies of picked soldiers to perform special raiding tasks to harass the enemy: the Commandos' attack on St-Nazaire on March 27, 1942, provides a notable example, since it crippled the only dry dock in western Europe that could have held the German battleship *Tirpitz*. US Rangers distinguished themselves on D-Day in Normandy by seizing a coastal battery that overlooked Omaha beach.

Other glorious feats were performed by resisters and special forces—many of them by women, who proved themselves fully capable combatants in the secret war. In military histories written in the years to come, the fighting in Europe during 1939-1945 may stand out as the war in which underground forces secured their right to stand alongside conventional navies, armies and air forces as strategic weapons, demanding full attention from strategists.



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THE RAID ON ST-NAZAIRE



On the night of March 27-28, 1942, British Commandos and the Royal Navy carried out a daring raid on the lock at St-Nazaire, the only dry dock capable of holding the German battleship *Tirpitz*. During the attack

the old destroyer *Campbelltown*, loaded with high explosive, was smashed into the lock gates, while Commandos went ashore to destroy other port facilities. The raiding party withdrew before the *Campbelltown* blew up, wrecking

the caisson and killing a number of Germans who had gone on board to inspect the damage. This drawing of the action, by Captain Bryan de Grineau, was published in *The Illustrated London News* on April 11, 1942.

WARTIME FASHION

THE WAR INSPIRES TODAY'S STYLES, WRITES SUZY MENKES

With a sausage of hair in a "victory roll" and square shoulders on a firm suit, the 1940s look on the Paris runways was faithfully recreated for the 1990s. Except for the legs. The models should have had bare flesh with a dark seam drawn at the back to simulate precious nylons.

Wartime fashion was about shortages and making do: cretonne house-coats run up from curtain fabric or a slick of lipstick to brighten a service uniform. But there were also gestures of defiance—perky cocktail hats and those wobbly, hand-drawn seams—

symbolic of women's refusal to lay down their fashion arms.

Nothing was more indicative than the attitude to women's crowning glory, as WAAF officers invented ways of turning their tresses up under a cap—and then letting their hair down when regulations permitted. *Vogue* gave a graphic description of booming business in the basement of the Dorchester hotel "where everyone spends the *alerte* being shampooed and set..."

The American wartime reporter Lee Miller even described a Paris hairdresser who "rigged his dryers to stove-pipes which passed through a furnace heated by rubbish".

Teams of boys riding a stationary tandem bicycle then provided the power, equal to covering 320 kilometres a day, to dry 160 heads.

Ah, bicycles! The lack of petrol coupons for private driving meant that women took to the wheels on cycles or in military or farm vehicles. (Even a uniformed Princess Elizabeth learned to handle a four-wheel drive vehicle.) Such transport imposed its own dress code: service uniform, practical land girl corduroy trousers, tailored blouses and turbans, which were introduced for those who worked in munitions factories and then popularised by Winston Churchill's wife, Clementine.

Fashion, as always, responded to circumstances, so that Lady Diana Cooper, deserting London for a 3-acre farm, abandoned city clothes for striped shirt and man-tailored trousers. Mrs John Betjeman went back to the land in Berkshire wearing a Tattersall-check shirt and jodhpurs. Both were prescient visions of the way that women were to dress in subsequent decades.

The austerity of wartime fashion started with clothes rationing, introduced in 1941. It allowed just 66 coupons, with a dress requiring 11, a skirt seven, and shoes five.

"Il faut skimp pour être chic," wrote *Vogue* hopefully, suggesting that fashion's "compulsory course of slimming" would make women buy less and invest better.

Marlene Dietrich went off to entertain the troops with the same 55lb baggage allowance as any serviceman leaving for destinations unknown. Her 1944 list, although upscale, gives a good indication of fashions at the time. She took men's grey flannel trousers; a silk-lined cashmere sweater by American-in-Paris designer Mainbocher; tropical uniforms; two long, sequinned gowns; transparent Vinylite slippers; and lingerie. In her pack was also a three-month supply of cosmetics, and soap made to lather in cold water for washing her blonde hair.

The allure of a forces' sweetheart was an inspiration for other women. In 1944 Merle Oberon endorsed the Maybelline eye make-up that was worn to add sex appeal below a uniform cap. In spite of shortages of fabric and even elastic, the swimming film star



GICLI BEATON/SOHELEWS

Perky cocktail hats, frocks with floral patterns, their shoulders puffed out, and smart, severely tailored suits became de rigueur in the austere war years, opposite page and below. The trim 1940s look has proved an inspiration for designer Anna Sui. For her 1995 spring collection in New York, right, prints she recreated were originally used by the Parisian artist Christian Bérard.

Esther Williams advertised her range of curvaceous swimsuits.

Fashion necessity was the mother of invention. The steel essential for high-heeled shoes was channelled into the war effort. So in came the platform sole or the wedge-heeled mule. In Italy, Salvatore Ferragamo fashioned shoes out of cork, and even covered heels with shiny sweet-papers.

With dash and ingenuity, hats were made out of scraps, their jaunty angles and frothy decoration both a memory of more glamorous times and a defiance of the difficult years.

To create the simple, puff-shouldered



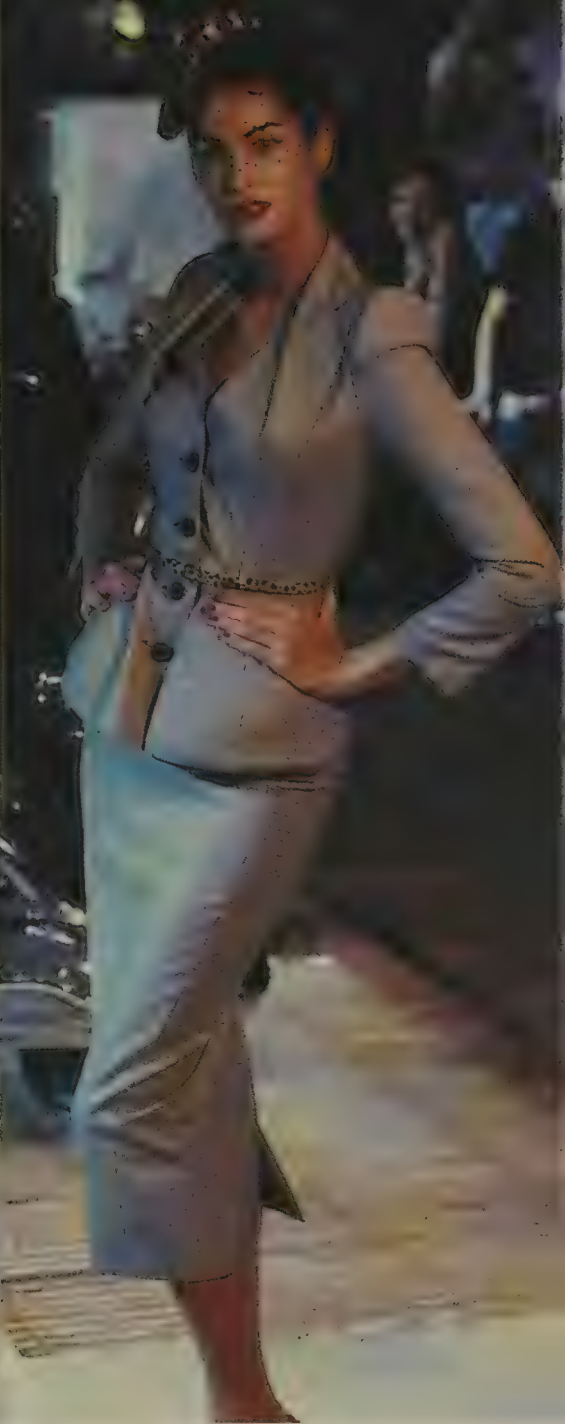
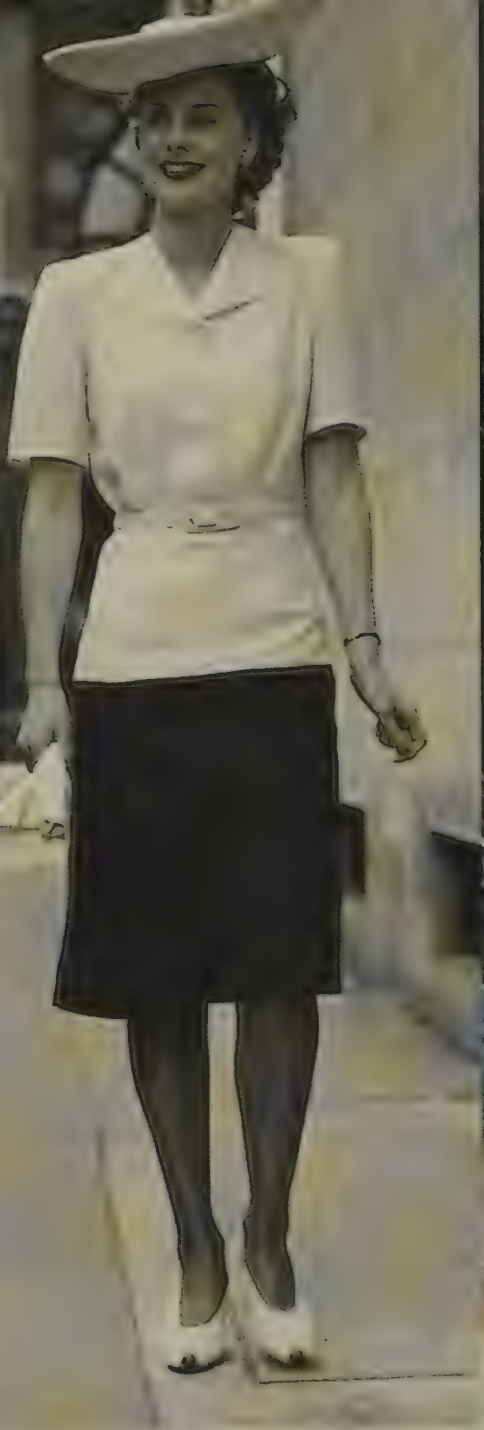
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NIAL MCINERNEY



John Galiano's slinky, 1995 suit, top right, would not have looked out of place in the collection of austerity wear shown in early summer 1942 by designer Norman Hartnell, top and above.



1940s frock women turned to furnishing fabrics for home dressmaking. If you could not find an American GI proffering the coveted nylons, ankle socks with platform shoes became your height of fashion. That 1940s look of floral dress on strong woman has been revived for this season by the New York designers Donna Karan and Anna Sui, who recreated prints originally done by the Parisian artist Christian Bérard.

The overall rigour of wartime fashions was more than an outward sign of austerity. The clothes also signalled a social revolution as the war hastened underlying changes. The rigid dress codes of a hierarchical society were blitzed and the idea of democracy in dress grew from the wartime period.

The new slacks were taken up by all women, whereas languid beach pyjamas had been worn only by a fashion élite in the 1930s. In the war years people not only became used to seeing women wearing trousers; psychologically, too, women had proved for the first time that they could take on a man's role. As Churchill himself put it, "The bounds of

women's activities have been definitely, vastly, and permanently enlarged. . ."

But, at the same time that women were marching to a new beat, they yearned for pretty things to counteract the austerity. At home, in their traditional role, they created flower-embroidered cardigans, shapely knits for "sweater girls" and the floral frocks. By the time that the French photographer Robert Doisneau snapped his famous Liberation photograph of a couple dancing in the streets of Paris, the woman's full-skirted summer dress was symbolically feminine.

The craving for sweet-toothed fashion, expressing the need and the desire to return to hearth and home after the menfolk came back, led to a very different style in the frankly feminine 1950s.

Yet 1940s style remains a watershed in the history of 20th-century fashion—which is why a powerful designer like Yves Saint Laurent constantly uses it as a reference point. In the latest international collections for 1995, young designers Michel Klein in Paris and Alexander McQueen in London (both born



Victory rolls and soft nape curls seen on the catwalks at the spring collections this season, left, were reminiscent of the early 1940s. The girl on the cover of the knitting pattern, below left, and the mannequin, right, have similar hair styles. The turban scarf being modelled in 1941 bears General de Gaulle's patriotic speech rallying his countrymen to arms. It was designed in Britain in collaboration with the Free French authorities.



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MARCH 1943
STITCHCRAFT 8^p



Safety precautions in the workplace, especially in munitions factories, right, dictated that hair should be protected and women were shown how to cover their long tresses, above. In the evening they were able to remove the turbans and let their hair down.



GOFFMAN



Despite shortages women refused to lay down their fashion arms in the war years. Clothes were run up at home using curtain and furnishing fabrics. The knitting pattern, above left, is for a two-tone cardigan in a honeycomb stitch, and inside the pattern book there were ideas for brightening up knitwear with embroidered flowers. Jaunty hats were considered very chic, as the musical comedy star Frances Day, left, and one of the ladies who lunch, right, demonstrate, but snoods were also popular.



GEORGE ROBERT MUGGERIDGE



RONALD GRANT

LITTLE MASON, SOUTHERN



LOPHAM



RONALD GRANT

The war years were a watershed for fashion. Women were encouraged to take off the old and put on the new, right. Many abandoned skirts and frocks for more utilitarian wear. Lady Diana Cooper, above left, wore trousers on her Dorset farm, and Marlene Dietrich covered her million-dollar legs in GI-regulation woollen socks and boots when she went to entertain the troops, above. Film star Esther Williams, top left, promoted swimwear and Merle Oberon advertised eye make-up, left.

well after the war) took Alfred Hitchcock's film heroines—all taut tailoring and suppressed sensuality—as their inspiration.

Born out of necessity, 1940s fashion became a symbol of female freedom. The broad shoulders and severe tailoring put women shoulder to shoulder with men in the workplace, even before the women's movement had endorsed a new way of dressing. The commemoration today of victory 50 years ago is also a celebration of the liberation of women's fashion.





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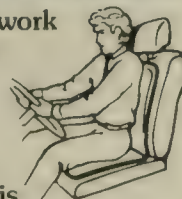
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WOMEN

IN THE WAR



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PHOTOGRAPHS LEFT AND RIGHT FROM TOPHAM



As more and more men went into the forces, their jobs became vacant and official posters, below, went up urging women to work in industry and on the land. The girl, above, is one of the thousands who were engaged in assembling and testing time-fuses for anti-aircraft shells. A woman Civil Defence worker rescues a small child, above centre, and land girls, above right, ride home after a day in the fields.



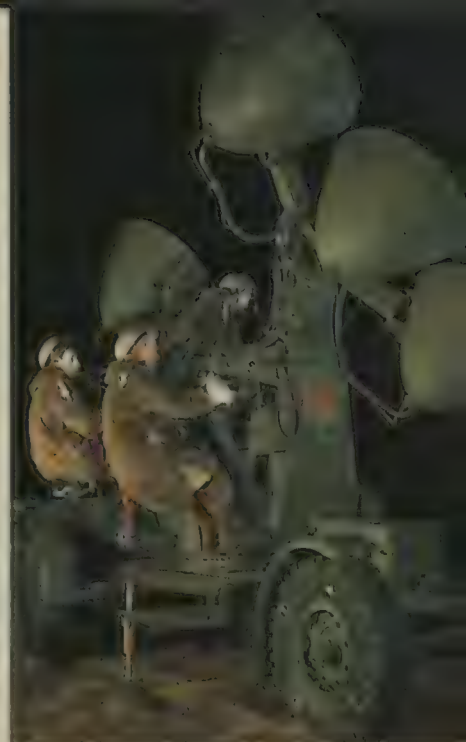
POSTERS FROM IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM



CAMERA PRESS



PHOTOGRAPH BY L. BURNETT FOR THE LITTON PHOTOGRAPHIC CO.



Above, a party of Wrens undergo training on the submarine depot ship Forth in 1943. Right, landing gear on an aircraft being repaired by a Waaf.

Opposite, bottom, nothing was wasted during wartime and torn parachutes were sent home for repairs. William Whiteley's, the London department store, was one of a number of firms that employed women on war work. One of its warehouses in Bayswater became a factory in which women hand-sewers and machinists made tents and other canvas equipment for the services.

Dance halls were crowded during the war as young couples found an escape from the grim realities of their existence. The ATS dance band, below, was one of several formed by branches of the women's services.



PHOTO BY L. BURNETT FOR THE LITTON PHOTOGRAPHIC CO.

Above, three members of the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) operate listening equipment to detect enemy planes. Below, recruitment posters enticed women into the services, in this instance the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force).



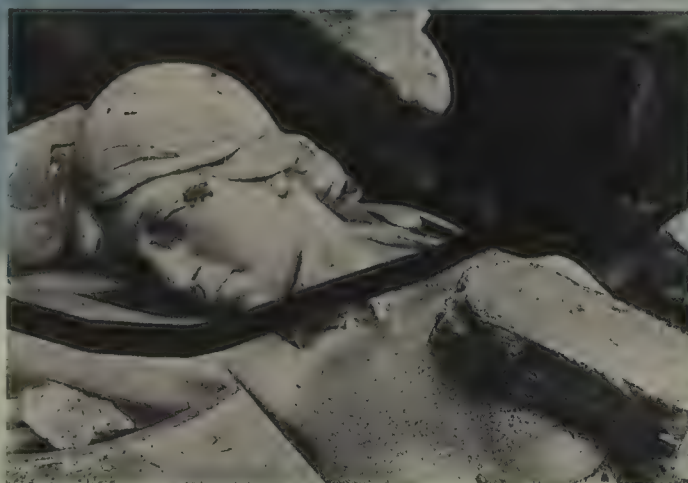
ARCHITECTURAL CASUALTIES

Gavin Stamp reflects on the bombing of London and its impact on the shape of the capital, then and now.

The famous photograph of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral floating above clouds of smoke and flame is one of the most haunting and potent images of the Second World War. Taken by a *Daily Mail* photographer standing on a rooftop on the night of December 29, 1940, it records the almost miraculous survival of Wren's masterpiece amid the destruction of much of the City of London. Such assaults by the Luftwaffe made the great architectural monuments of London seem all the more precious—and important:

Churchill sent a message from his Westminster bunker to Guildhall that night that St Paul's must be saved at all costs.

There is a deep irony in this. Paradoxically, despite all the destruction he achieved, Hermann Goering in fact helped to save many of the historical monuments of London. Before the war there had been little protection for historical buildings from remorseless commercial redevelopment—and none whatever for anything built after 1714. The result was that during the 1920s and 1930s most of the surviving "private palaces" of London,



LIE MILLER ARCHIVES

ANDREW BUTLER



St Paul's Cathedral survived the Blitz and the V1 and V2 attacks that followed, and became a symbol of London's defiance as it stood proudly above the ruins of the surrounding buildings and streets. Many of Wren's smaller churches were destroyed, together with other fine churches, and the sculptures and treasures within them. Other historic buildings damaged in the war included Guildhall, which was set alight by incendiaries in 1940. The roof was not permanently replaced until after the war, when it was topped with golden Collyweston tiles, left. Searchlights on VE Day revealed the dome of St Paul's in its full glory.

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HULTON DEUIJSCHE





DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY



HULTON-DEUTSCH

Dulwich Picture Gallery was gutted by a flying bomb in 1944, top left, but was subsequently restored, above left, as was Burlington Arcade, left and below. Above, Smithfield Market was a survivor of the London Blitz.

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ANDREW BUTLER



such as Chesterfield House and Norfolk House, along with Waterloo Bridge, the Foundling Hospital, Nash's Regent Street and many Georgian houses were destroyed. Incredibly, even one of the City churches, All Hallows', Lombard Street, was demolished as late as 1938.

But when Wren churches were destroyed by the Luftwaffe rather than by the Bishop of London the reaction was very different. This time it was barbarism, and the sight of gutted medieval churches and burnt-out Georgian houses created a climate of opinion in which historic buildings were at last treasured as national monuments. The consequence was the passing of the Town and Country Planning Acts of 1944 and 1947 which established our system of listing historic buildings.

This is not to say, of course, that London did not suffer dreadfully from bombing. Today we must look at contemporary photographs to appreciate the scale of destruction, for the wounds have been healed by restoration or by the erection of new buildings. As the late Sir James Richards prophesied in 1947 in his preface to that melancholy but tantalising book *The Bombed Buildings of Britain*: "One day we may even need reminding of the intensely romantic character that the manner of their destruction



St John's, Red Lion Square, above, was pulled down, though many wanted it to be preserved as a ruin.

brought to bomb ruins, and of their poignancy, which was of a kind not possessed by ruins that have undergone a slower, more merciful process of dismemberment and decay."

Even so, it must be admitted that the areas most damaged—the City of London and the East End—might well look little different today even if there had never been a war because the

ordinary course of commercial or planned comprehensive redevelopment would have transformed them anyway. The parts of central London that were most radically changed by the Blitz were all in the City, where bombs and subsequent demolitions cleared great swathes of land around Paternoster Square, the Barbican and the west end of Cannon Street. But such large-scale redevelopment was achieved partly because most of the casualties were unfashionable Victorian commercial buildings for which few shed a tear—and, after all, Lord Palumbo has recently succeeded in removing one of the last great concentrations of such structures (including eight listed buildings) without the help of German bombs.

Many historic buildings badly damaged in the war were subsequently rebuilt and restored. When visiting the Dulwich Picture Gallery it is difficult to appreciate that Soane's celebrated building was blown to pieces by a flying bomb in 1944. Similarly, it is almost impossible to believe that Chelsea Old Church was painstakingly rebuilt from a pile of rubble and bricks. But some damaged buildings which could and should have been restored—for instance Holland House in Holland Park—were not rebuilt. In this respect London's record, compared with that of Warsaw or St Petersburg, is not impressive. Other buildings were totally destroyed and their absence is still painful.

The saddest losses were Wren's fragile little churches, like St Mildred's, Bread Street, and St Swithin's, Cannon Street, whose roofs of timber and plaster and glorious interiors with high box pews were easily consumed by incendiary bombs. Farther west the destruction was less. Large chunks of areas such as Oxford Street may have been cleared, but the new buildings are no more memorable than the ones they replaced. The most damaging losses were those of ordinary pieces of Georgian town planning, for instance Portman Square and Brunswick Square. And some bombed buildings were more lamented as institutions than for their architecture, for example the Queen's Hall in Langham Place—the original home of the Proms.

The casualties whose loss has done most to change the topography of London are probably some of the great Victorian churches. St John's, Red Lion Square, by J.L. Pearson, made

such a noble ruin that many argued for its preservation as it stood. But the site was cleared and today it is impossible to imagine a distinguished building ever having stood there. All too often, indeed, bomb damage was used as an excuse to remove an unwanted church. In the case of St Agnes's, Kennington, in south London, which the Council for the Care of Churches considered "the most important 19th-century building to have been damaged in the late war", most of the fabric survived but, despite

the availability of war damage cash, the diocese of Southwark still destroyed George Gilbert Scott Jnr's masterpiece.

The sad truth is that when fine London buildings were bombed, what replaced them after the war was usually thoroughly mediocre. The exception, perhaps, is the new House of Commons, which replaced the chamber that was totally gutted in 1941. This was designed by the great architect of Liverpool Cathedral, Sir Giles Scott, in his own modern and creative

The Prime Minister surveying the wreckage of the House of Commons chamber, hit by a bomb in 1941.

"Neon-Gothic" style. Parliament decided, however, that its plan should follow that of the old chamber because of its effect on the nature of politics. "We shape our buildings, and afterwards they shape us", as Churchill argued. When contemplating the present state of our adversarial two-party system perhaps we might wish that a rather more radical design had been adopted.

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The Rhine, Germany's great natural defensive barrier, was crossed in March, and Churchill was quick to have himself ferried over.

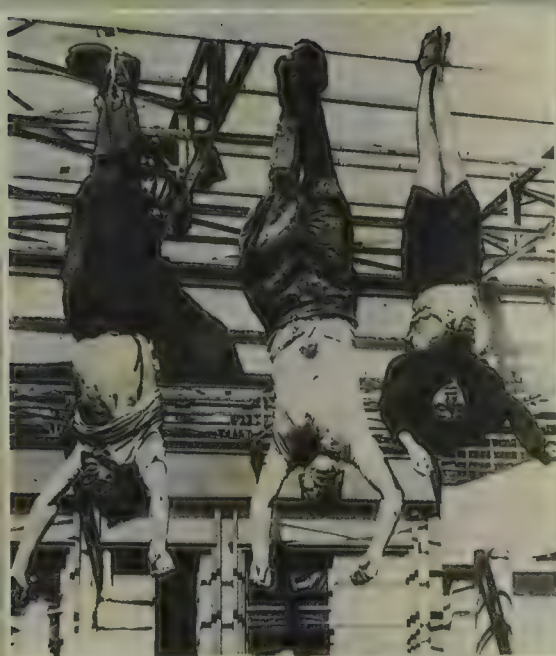
A German V2 rocket was put on display in London soon after the war ended.



1945

In February Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin met at Yalta to consider the future of Europe and of the world after the war was over. In exchange for his promise of help against Japan once Germany was beaten and for his support in setting up the United Nations Stalin was tacitly given control of eastern Europe (Russian troops having already taken Poland and Hungary). Meanwhile the battle in Europe was still being bitterly fought. RAF Bomber Command launched a massive raid on Dresden as the Allies pushed German troops back through the Ardennes and, in March, crossed the Rhine, occupied the Ruhr and captured the launching sites for the V1 and V2 weapons. In the following month they found the horrors of the camps at Belsen, Buchenwald and Dachau. In April the black-out officially ended in Britain, American and Russian

troops met at the river Elbe, Mussolini was killed by Italian partisans and Hitler shot himself as the Russians moved into the centre of Berlin. The Germans gave up Italy on May 2 and finally surrendered Germany itself. On May 8 it was officially announced from Downing Street that the war in Europe was over. Following the celebrations in Britain a general election, held in July, resulted in defeat for Churchill and the Conservative party and a substantial majority for Labour under Clement Attlee. Meanwhile the war in the Far East continued. Britain's "Forgotten Army" regained Burma, the Americans captured Iwo Jima and Okinawa and then, on August 6, an American B29 bomber dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima, followed three days later by another on Nagasaki. On August 14 the Japanese surrendered and on the following day the world celebrated VJ Day.



POPPIEROTO

Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were shot by Italian partisans in April and their bodies hung upside down.



Corpses laid out and awaiting burial at Belsen after the concentration camp had been liberated by British troops.



The Big Three at Yalta, where the political future of Europe began to cause problems, reflected in the Punch cartoon 'Trouble with some of the pieces.'



Victory in Europe. Right, a truckload of Parisians celebrate on VE Day in 1945.



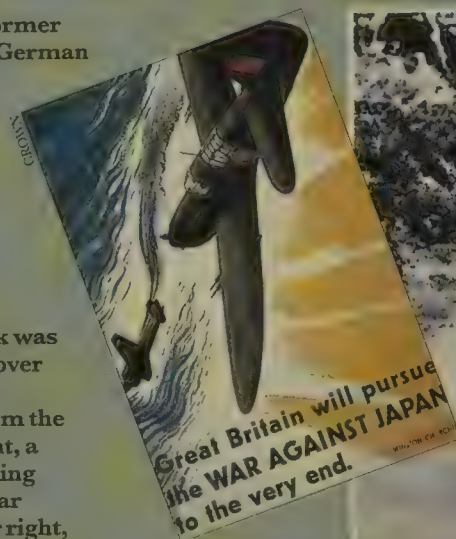
SERGE DE SAZO/RAPHO/NETWORK



MAGNUM PHOTOS LIMITED



A Gestapo informer identified in a German refugee camp.



The Union Jack was hoisted again over Burma, left, recaptured from the Japanese. Right, a poster reminding Britons that war continued. Far right, a Japanese envoy in Rangoon, where he surrendered to General Browning.



After Labour won the election Clement Attlee succeeded Churchill as Prime Minister and attended the Potsdam Conference where he greeted US President Harry S. Truman, left. Right, a patriotic ashtray of 1945.



BACK TO CIVVY STREET

by Stanley Simm Baldwin

Surrender documents and victory days are all very well for governments and historians, but for ordinary servicefolk the one that counted was the day they picked up their civilian outfits.

Throughout the war trickles of people were constantly being released from the armed forces, mainly because of severe wounds. In the case of the Army these demobilisations were organised by the individuals' regimental depots. The person was given an austerity suit, of inferior quality, but if he wished he could accept instead a grant of £2 15s 9d (£2.79p in today's currency). Officers were given a better quality suit. The system changed once victory in Europe came into sight—general demobilisation would mean that millions of people would have to be converted into civilians.

Twelve Military Clothing and Dispersal Units were established in different parts of the country; each was designated by a number and each consisted of a series of vast warehouses. In London one such unit was Olympia, the exhibition centre. Working in co-operation with clothing manufacturers, the government stocked each unit with tens of thousands of suits, coats, hats, shoes and shirts. The government claimed that there were about 100 different types of suiting, but nobody ever had a choice of anything like that figure. However, the suits were of far better quality than those previously issued and there was no longer any distinction between those for officers and those for men. The general's would be the same as his batman's... and everything was free.

The two hours spent in the clothing unit were probably the most memorable of the wartime warrior's military career. After being briefed on identity cards, ration books and clothing coupons he was given money and a rail warrant to his home (plus cash to pay for a snack on the journey, his last meal in uniform). He then passed into the clothing emporium, where he chose the outfit of his dreams after years of uniformity. "You fancy a James Cagney big-shot trilby? A Humphrey Bogart double-breast? Take them, they're yours."

The clothing units were happy, relaxed places. Only one patch of turbulence disturbed the tranquility. The chain store outfitters' products filled the bulk of the racks in the units, but among firms taking part in the scheme were some smaller companies which made extremely good suits, for instance, Simpson's of Piccadilly with their Daks range—and everything was free. Some members of the units' staffs realised they could turn this to good account. The manufacturers were not allowed to put their distinctive labels on the items but instead used a code. Within a few

months of the scheme's operation a mini-black market in these high-quality products developed. Some assistants at the unit would conceal the superior suits behind other clothes. A hint to a likely looking "customer" that something special could perhaps be found with a little effort and a greasing of the palm would result in a top-quality suit being offered. This souk-like approach was possible because thousands of bemused people were filing through the place.

When the authorities realised what was happening they acted swiftly and some staff and customers were jailed. Black marketeering was a strange crime: most customers were willing to commit it, there was no social obloquy about doing so, yet severe penalties were imposed.

Going through No 2 Military Clothing and Dispersal Centre at York, I obtained my Daks suit (at least I think it was a Daks) not by bribery but by being picky. It was a three-piece single-breast in a fawn, light tweed mixture. To go with it I chose a dark-green porkpie trilby, a dark-green tie, a fawn striped shirt with two collars and a servicable looking pair of black shoes that the footwear assistant assured me were the best available. A putty-coloured riding mac, black cufflinks, studs and two pairs of socks completed the new civilian me.

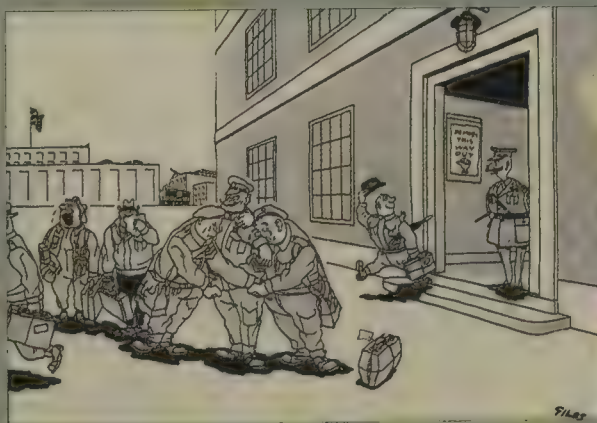
There were a lot of jokes and criticisms about demob suits, and it is true that some cloths, the grey chalk-striped number and the plain navy double-breast, were instantly recognisable, but the scheme was on the whole a highly creditable initiative by the government. I never wore the tie and my trilby was pinched from a restaurant hat-stand, but the rest of the ensemble, which fitted me perfectly, gave excellent service for years. What is more, I did not set eyes on a similar cloth for decades. When I did so it was being worn by a serious industrialist much in the news during the 1980s. Oddly enough we had both served in the same regiment. Another customer satisfied with his demob suit was the Reverend Eric Gethyn-Jones, chaplain to the 43rd

Reconnaissance Regiment (Gloucestershire Regiment), who was made a MBE for gallantry in saving lives when his landing craft was sunk by a mine. Awaiting his turn at the Dispersal Unit in Hereford, he noticed that two tall private soldiers in front of him were receiving detailed measuring and attention from the outfitter. When the chaplain's turn came the outfitter noted his choice of cloth but did not bother to measure him. He merely shouted up to an assistant on a ladder: "Short and podgy" and a suit was thrown down. The chaplain found it fitted perfectly.



At the end of the war servicemen were given a civilian outfit, above.

The cartoonist Giles saw mock distress when men had to leave their sergeant, right. The group of medals comprises (left to right): the 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal and War Medal. They came with a certificate from the government.



A SELECTIVE GUIDE TO SOME OF THE EVENTS
AROUND BRITAIN CELEBRATING THE END
OF THE WAR IN EUROPE AND THE FAR EAST

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS



ENSA girls who will perform at Dover Castle.

Victory Festival. Vast collection of events & exhibitions to commemorate the momentous events of the war & recall the rejoicing at its end. These include: **D-Day to Victory.** Films photographs & memorabilia evoking the period. Until Aug 31. **The Channel Islands: Occupation & Liberation 1940-45.** The daily lives of islanders & occupying German forces Until Oct 1. **London at War.** Film, photographs, personal recollections & reconstructions. Until Nov 27.

Fashion on the Ration. The story of the home front through costume. May 4-6. **Carel Weight: a war retrospective.** Street scenes, interiors & pictures of devastation, by an official war artist. June 6-Oct 8. **Occupation!** Holiday events for children based on the occupation of the Channel Islands. Aug 12-28. **Victory in the Far East.** Plight of civilians & prisoners of war held by the Japanese. Aug 15-Dec 15. Daily 10am-6pm. £4.10, OAPs £3.10, children £2.05; May 8 & Aug 15 free. *Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd, SE1 (0171-416 5000).*

Larry at War. Selling exhibition of work from a new book of Second World War images by the celebrated cartoonist. Until May 9. Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm. *Chris Beetles Gallery, 8 & 10 Ryder St, SW1 (0171-839 7551).*

Happy as a Sandbag. Songs & sketches from the Second World War. Until May 20. Tues-Sat. Dinner 6.30pm, show 8.15pm. £17.95-£28.95, including dinner. *The Mill at Sonning Theatre, Sonning Eye, nr Reading, Berks (01734 698000).*

From Stalingrad to Berlin. Photographs by Yevgeny Khaldei. Until June 10. Daily 9am-10pm. *Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd, W6 (0181-748 2255).*

The Road from 1945: Makers of Post-War Britain. Paintings & photographs portraying those who led the nation through 15 years of austerity & reconstruction. Until June 18. Mon-Sat 10am-5.55pm, Sun noon-5.55pm. *National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Pl, WC2 (0171-306 0055).*

When the Lights go on Again. Exhibition, with VE-Day street party atmosphere. Until late Aug. Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm (closed bank holidays). *Reminiscence Centre, 11 Blackheath Village, SE3 (0181-318 9105).*

Soldier magazine. 50th anniversary exhibition for the fortnightly British military publication. Until Sept 15. Daily 10am-5.30pm (closed May 8). *National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Rd, SW3 (0171-730 0717).*

Liberation! The aftermath of five years of German rule: celebrations, mine-detection, the renaissance of the holiday industry & horticultural export trade, & the demise of the local language—forgotten by a generation evacuated as schoolchildren. Until Oct 1. Daily 10.30am-5.30pm. £2.50, OAPs £1.25, children 75p. *Guernsey Museum, St Peter Port, Guernsey (01481 726518).*

The Sapper as Artist. Watercolours, sketches & graphic art by past & present members of the Corps of Royal Engineers. Until Oct 29. Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm; Sat, Sun 11.30am-5pm. £2, concessions £1. *Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham, Kent (01634 406397).*

Cornwall's Secret Navies. The clandestine activities of the Secret Intelligence Service & the Special Operations Executive who transported agents, information & equipment to & from occupied France. Other exhibitions on the site include the local home front & a re-creation of a wartime blitzed street. Until end Oct. Daily 10am-5pm (July 24-Sept 1 Mon-Fri 10am-7pm, Sat, Sun 10am-5pm). £6.95, OAPs £4.50, children £6.25. *Flambards Village Theme Park, Helston, Cornwall (01326 573404).*

Soldiers through the ages from Romans to VE-Day. Re-enactment of 2,000 years of history. Static displays and finale of Salisbury St George's Spring Festival. Apr 22-23, from noon. £5, concessions £4, children £2.50, English Heritage members free. *Old Sarum Castle, Wiltshire (01722 335398).*

Soldiering On. Selling exhibition of wartime paintings & drawing. Apr 26-May 19. Mon-Fri 10am-6pm (closed May 8 & 29). *Sally Hunter Fine Art, 11 Halkin Arcade, Motcomb St, SW1 (0171-235 0934).*

War & the Waterworks. Photographic exhibition examining the impact of the war on London's water supply system. May 1-28. Daily 11am-5pm. Mon-Fri £2, concessions £1; Sat, Sun & bank holiday Mon (when pumping engines are in steam) £3.25 & £1.80. *Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middx (0181-568 4757).*

Atlantic Memorial Exhibition. Photographs, maps & charts convey the strategic wartime importance of Derry, the most westerly natural harbour of the British Isles. May 1-Sept 30. Tues-Sat & bank holiday Mon 10am-5pm (July 1-Aug 31 Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm). £2.75, OAPs free, children £1, family group £5.50. *Tower Museum, Derry, Co Londonderry (01504 372411).*

VE Gala Concert. Syd Lawrence Orchestra, with the Beverley Sisters & Max Bygraves, in a programme of 1940s favourites. May 4, 7.30pm. £10-£25. *Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212).*

Made in London. Twice-weekly evening screenings include films made by & featuring people killed during the war (May 9 & 11); comedies (May 16-June 1); & films looking at the effects of war on society (June 20, 22). May 2-June 22, Tues & Thurs 6.10pm. £2.50. *Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (0171-600 3699).*

Anne Frank in the World. Poignant photographs & diary extracts evoke memories of the Jewish girl who died in Belsen after two years of hiding in an Amsterdam house. May 4-June 4. Daily 10am-6pm. £5.20, concessions £2.60 (tickets valid six months); May 8 & Aug 15 free. *RAF Museum, Grahame Park Way, Hendon, NW9 (0181-205 2266).*

War Requiem. Benjamin Britten's massive 1962 choral work combining

the words of the Latin mass with Wilfred Owen's poems. Performed by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra & Brighton Festival Chorus. May 5, 8pm. £7-£18. *The Dome, Brighton, E Sussex (01273 709709).*

ENSA-style concert parties. Second World War music, drama & comedy. Wartime food served from a field canteen. Also, exhibition of a 60-strong fleet of 1/300th-scale model warships made from matchsticks (until May 14). May 5-9, 10.30am-5.30pm £2, OAPs £1, children free. *Nothe Fort, Weymouth (01305 787243).*

Victory Banquet. The Queen and visiting heads of state attend a banquet. *Guildhall, EC2.*

Portsmouth Reborn: Destruction & Reconstruction 1939-74. Exhibition with maps, models & personal reminiscence to show the rebirth of a city devastated by bombs. May 6-Sept 3. Daily 10am-5pm. *City Museum, Portsmouth, Hants (01705 827261).*

Victory Cricket Match. Celebrity game to mark the 50th anniversary of the Victory series between England & Australia. David Gower captains an England team members past & present against a celebrity team led by David English. Additional entertainment includes a military band & a fly-past. May 6, 1pm. £8, children £2. *The Foster's Oval, SE11 (box office: 0171-582 7764).*

Syd Lawrence Orchestra & Singers. "In the Mood" & other wartime tunes that accompanied the Allied forces. May 6, 7.30pm. £10-£15. *Corn Exchange, Newbury, Berks (01635 522733).*

German Bunkers Open Day. Visit impregnable fortresses that are stark reminders of the Channel Islands' occupation. May 6. *Noirmont & Corbière, St Brelade; Millbrook, St Lawrence; Val de Mare, St Peter; Jersey (inf: 01534 482809).*

Victory Celebrations in Hyde Park. Immense public event to commemorate victory & peace. May 6-8. Sat, veterans' day, attended by the



The Syd Lawrence Orchestra are to recreate 1940s popular music at venues around the country. Bletchley Park, where enemy signals were deciphered, will be open.

Queen Mother & Princess Margaret; 7.45pm, concert by Royal British Legion Choir. Sun, youth day, attended by the Queen & heads of state. Mon, families' day; the Queen lights beacon at 8pm. *Hyde Park, W2.*

Bletchley Park Open Days. Special entertainments, & a chance to see the former top-secret code & cypher establishment, & the 1,500-valve Colossus computer. (Also open to the public on two weekends a month; call for dates.) May 6-8, 10.30am-5pm. Normal charge £3, concessions £2; special events day rate to be arranged. *Bletchley Park, Bletchley, nr Milton Keynes, Bucks (01908 640404).*

VE-Day Weekend. Free events in the dockyard include a street theatre production *Brylcreem, Bullets & Bunting*. The permanent attractions of HMS *Victory*, HMS *Warrior 1860*, the *Mary Rose* & the Royal Naval Museum are open daily 10am-6pm; inclusive ticket £9.90, OAPs £8.90, children £4.95; individual rates also available. May 6-8. *HM Naval Base, Portsmouth (01705 839766).*

The Countryside at War. Life on the home front, including a look at wartime food & agriculture. May 6-8, daily 10.30am-5.30pm. (Dancing to big-band sounds, with dinner & a late-night snack of Spam sandwiches, May 6, £14.95.) *South of England Rare Breeds Centre, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent (01233 861493).*

Celebration of Peace. The royal family and heads of state attend a service of commemoration. May 7, 11am. *St Paul's Cathedral, EC4.*

World's Largest Street Party. Historic military vehicles, bands & competitions. May 7, 11am-4pm. Entertainment free; packed lunch £4.50. *Sea Front, Weymouth, Dorset (01305 772444).*

VE-Day Celebration Concert. Raymond Baxter & Robin Boyle introduce a musical evening featuring the Central Band of the RAF, drums & trumpets of the Royal Marines & fanfare & pipes of the Army. May 7, 7.30pm. £10-£22.50.

Symphony Hall, International Convention Centre, Birmingham (0121-212 3333).

A Night to Remember. Musical celebration, with popular classics of the time, community singing, film clips, & items from wartime Pathé newsreels. May 7, 7.30pm. £10-£30. *Albert Hall.*

Victory Celebrations. 1939-45 military vehicles on show & British troops re-enacting victory against Napoleon form part of the commemorations. May 7-8, from. £3, concessions £2.25, children £1.50, English Heritage members free. *Belsay Hall, Northumberland.*

Festival of Dover. A variety of events throughout the town, on the theme of Memories. May 7-21. *Festival office: Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, nr Dover, Kent CT16 3PD (01304 821199).*

VE-Day on Radio 4. From the peal of victory bells to archive material & drama, the day of anniversary features includes contributions from Alistair Cooke, Frank Gillard & John Snagge & excerpts from wartime comedy shows; present-day programmes like *The Archers* & *The News Quiz* enjoy a victory flavour. May 8, 5.50am-12.35am. *BBC Radio 4.*

VE-Day celebrations. Day-long entertainment includes 1940s cabaret, displays by armed services cadets & the police, a march-past by war veterans & a military band, historic vehicles, a fly-past by a Spitfire & a Blenheim, & an open-air swing concert by the Ray McVay Band. May 8, 10am-10.30pm. *Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent (01634 880033).*

Salute to Victory! Re-creation of British soldiers of two world wars, with military vehicles, artillery salute, ENSA-style show, 1940s music, & the newly-opened underground Second World War hospital & field dressing station. May 8, noon-6pm. £5.50, OAPs £4.10, children £2.80, English Heritage members free. *Dover Castle, Dover, Kent (01304 201628).*

Celebrations of Peace. The Prince of Wales attends a service at

Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff; the Princess Royal & Commander Timothy Laurence are present at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. May 8, 11am. *Cardiff & Edinburgh.*

VE-Day film screenings. Two programmes: *It Happened Here*, a 1963 feature imagining that Germany occupied Britain, May 8, 4.15pm, £4.35; & a double bill of documentaries about Auschwitz—Maurice Hatton's *Satan at his Best* (reminiscences of British survivors) & Alain Resnais's *Nuit et Brouillard* (containing footage shot in the camp); Hatton & some British survivors take part in a discussion, May 8, 6.30pm, £3 (includes admission to the Museum of the Moving Image). *National Film Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232).*

Victory in Europe Dance. Guests are encouraged to wear 1940s clothing—uniform or civilian—for an evening of music, dancing & community singing. May 8, 7.30pm. £4, includes NAAFI supper. *Knoll Country Club, Wareham Rd, Corfe Mullen, Dorset (01202 658188).*

Victory Beacons. UK-wide chain of bonfires to celebrate 50 years of peace. May 8. The Queen lights first beacon, 8pm. *Hyde Park, W2; for other venues, see local press.*

Viennese Evening. Musical celebration of VE-Day by the Melos Ensemble from Vienna playing Mozart & Strauss. May 8, 7.30pm. £10-£16. *Corn Exchange, Newbury, Berks (01635 522733).*

Channel Island Liberation Celebrations. The Prince of Wales attends the ceremonies. May 9, 10.30am, parade, Liberation Day service & inauguration of 50th-anniversary memorial, *Guernsey*; 2.15pm, flypast, dedication of memorials, *Jersey*; May 10, 11am, *Sark.*

Beyond the Lines. Portraits drawn in the 1940s by Sam Morse-Brown during active service in north Africa & Italy. May 9-Oct 14. Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun (until Sept 30) 1-5pm. *Gosport Museum, Gosport, Hants (01705 588035).*

Occupation Tapestry. A colourful depiction, in 7.5 million stitches, of the five years that the islands were under German rule. Opens May 10. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm. £2.90, concessions £1.90. *Jersey Museum, St Helier (01534 30511).*

Distribution of medallions. The Bailiff of Guernsey presents medals to 150 members of the British task force who liberated the island in 1945. May 10, 9.05am. *Elizabeth College, St Peter Port, Guernsey.*

VE-Day Dance. Dress in period clothes for this 50th-anniversary celebration to big-band music, held in a marquee. May 12, 9pm. £8. *Trelissick House, Feock, nr Truro, Cornwall (box office: 01872 862090).*

RAFA Celebrations. Outdoor events include a Red Arrows flying display at 1.30pm, marching, music, & a Spitfire flypast at 4.55pm. May 13. *The Pier area, Bournemouth, Dorset (01202 789789).*

Unveiling of Atlantic Memorial. The ceremony is preceded by a service in memory of the tens of thousands of naval, submarine & airforce personnel who perished. May 13. *Lisahally, nr Derry, Co Londonderry (inf: 01504 365151).*

Auschwitz: Responses to the Holocaust in Contemporary Art. Works by four present-day artists from Britain, France, Germany & the US. May 13-July 2, Mon-Sat 10am-5.45pm, Sun 2-5.45pm, *Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester (0161-236 5244);* Oct 9-Nov 18, Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm (Mon & Wed until 7.30pm), Sat 9.30am-4pm, *City Library & Arts Centre, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear (0191-514 1214).*

There'll Always be an England. An evening of fun, & nostalgia looking at England & the English way of life with Jane Lapotaire, Bryan Pringle & Neil McCaul. May 14, 7pm. £12.50. *Regency Park Hotel, Thatcham, Berks (inf: 01635 522733).*

Chelsea Flower Show. This year's annual horticultural extravaganza will include a Dig for Victory garden



The Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Second World War aircraft will fly at the Biggin Hill Air Fair. John Snagge returns to broadcast on BBC Radio 4.

recreating the typical plot of a London terraced house of 1945, complete with marrows growing on the top of an Anderson shelter. Advance bookings only. May 23-26. RHS members only, Tues, Wed 8am-8pm, £15; public days Thurs 8am-8pm, £23; Fri 8am-5pm, £20. *Royal Hospital, Chelsea, SW3* (box office: 0171-396 4696).

George Rodger: a photographic journey. Images captured by one of the pioneers of international photo-journalism & co-founder of the celebrated Magnum Photos. Subjects shot for *Life* magazine include the Blitz, & the war in Europe, north Africa & Burma; later photographs come from assignments in Africa. June 1-Aug 27. Mon-Sat 10am-6.45pm (Tues until 5.45pm); Sun & bank holidays noon-6.45pm. £4.50, concessions & everybody Mon-Fri after 5pm £2.50. *Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2* (0171-638 4141).

The Flowers of Peace—50 years on. Exhibition of British art & design from 1945 to the present. June 6-Aug 19. Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm. £2.50, concessions £1.70, children free. *Palant House Gallery, Chichester, W Sussex* (01243 774557).

Beating Retreat. Military precision & music from the Guards' massed bands. June 7, 8, 9.30pm. £5-£10. *Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, SW1*. Ticket applications to *The Treasurer, Horse Guards, Whitehall, SW1A 2AX* (0171-344 4444).

Biggin Hill Air Fair. Spectacular civil & RAF event on the theme of East meets West includes historic Second World War aircraft & a Russian MiG 15 fighter. Displays by the Red Arrows & the Russian Test Pilots Team. June 10, 11, 11am-6pm. £10, children £4. *Biggin Hill, nr Bromley, Kent* (advance booking 0181-313 0527).

Music, Memories & Moonlight. 1940s Big Band Concert with dancing & fireworks. June 10. *Chartwell, Westerham, Kent* (inf: 01892 891001).

Massed Bands. The three armed services beat retreat. June 13-15,

6.30pm. £5-£10. *Horse Guards, Whitehall, SW1* (box office: 0171-403 8783).

Trooping the Colour. The Queen's official birthday parade when the colour of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards is trooped. Procession along the Mall. RAF flypast. June 17 (rehearsals on June 3 & 10), 11am. *Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, SW1*.

Service of Remembrance & Thanksgiving. The War Widows' Association remember the fallen. June 20, 3pm. *St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Sq, WC2*.

Merchant Navy Commemoration Service. The Duke of Edinburgh attends a service to honour the fallen. June 22, 10.55am. *Merchant Navy War Memorial, Tower Hill, EC3*.

Anniversary Concert. Richard Baker introduces a concert given by the Band of the Royal Marines, Portsmouth. June 24, 7.30pm. £5-£15. *Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury, Wilt* (box office: 01722 334565).

London Looks Forward: from 1945 to the future. Exhibition & events to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1945 general election. July 4-end Aug. Tues-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun noon-5.50pm. £3.50, concessions £1.75 (valid for three months); free after 4.30pm. *Museum of London, London Wall, EC2* (0171-600 3699).

Golden Gala. Evening of classical, popular & military music, film clips & special effects, in aid of the Royal British Legion & in the presence of the Duke of York. July 12, 7.30pm. £50-£450. *Albert Hall*.

Royal Tournament. Victory is the theme of this year's spectacle in which the RAF, joined by other branches of the services, are main participants. For the finale the audience is invited to join a VE-Day "street party" & sing along to wartime hits. Outside the arena visitors can try out a simulated rigid raiding raft, a parachute training jump & a children's assault course. July 18-29. Tues-Sun 2pm, Mon-Sat 7.30pm. £5-£24, concessions £5-£14. *Earl's Court, Warwick Rd, SW5* (0171-244 0371).

International Air Tattoo. Britain's largest show of military aircraft celebrates 50 years of peace. July 22, 23. 10.30am-6pm. £20, children £5. *RAF Fairford, Glos* (01285 713300).

War Works: women, photography & the art of war. Images, themes & the iconography of war by 11 women artists. July 22-Aug 19. Mon-Sat 11am-6pm (Wed until 7pm). *Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham* (0115-947 6334).

The Forgotten Army. Documents, maps & artifacts relating to the war in the Far East. July 22-Oct 29. Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm; Sat, Sun 11.30am-5pm. £2, concessions £1. *Royal Engineers Museum*.

Battleday. Re-enactments of skirmishes from Roman to Napoleonic times & in both world wars. July 30. 10am-5pm. £5, concessions £3. *Tank Museum, Bovington, nr Poole, Dorset* (01929 403329).

Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Display of pageantry on the floodlit ramparts. Aug 4-26. Mon-Fri 9pm, Sat 7.45pm & 10.30pm. £7.50-£16. *Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh* (box office: 0131-225 1188).

A Salute to the Forties. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra play Walton's *Battle of Britain Suite*, plus music by Hammerstein, Berlin & Coates. Aug 19, 7pm. £5-£8. *Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham* (0115-948 2626).

VJ-Day special events. Free wartime bulletins outlining news events of 50 years ago; victory singing; sweets handed out by policemen, GIs, Tommies & munitions workers. Aug 15. Museum open daily 10am-5.30pm. £4.95, OAPs £3.75, children £2.75. *Winston Churchill's Britain at War Theme Museum, 64-65 Tooley St, SE1* (0171-403 3171).

Royal British Legion Balloon Launch. Fund-raising event which aims to release sponsored balloons—one for each life lost in the Second World War. Aug 15, 3pm. £1 a balloon. *Southsea Common, nr Portsmouth, Hants* (inf: 0171-973 0633).

Syd Lawrence Orchestra. Aug 15, 8pm. £7.50-£8.50. *Guildhall, Portsmouth, Hants* (01705 824355).

VE/VJ Tattoo. Free military spectacle, music & drill. Aug 16, 3pm. *Sea Front, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants*.

Plymouth Navy Days. A look at some of Britain's frigates & mine-sweepers, as well as visiting vessels from France, Germany & USA. Aug 17-19, 9.30am-6pm. £4, concessions £2. *Plymouth, Devon* (0752 553740).

VJ Celebration Day. Open-air service at Buckingham Palace, followed by a tribute & promise procession, veterans' parade past the Cenotaph, a fly-past, & fireworks over the Thames. Aug 19. *Central London* (Inf: 0171-973 0633).

VJ-Day Remembrance. Commemorative events include veterans' parades, *Cardiff & Belfast*; church services, *Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Melrose Abbey*; & beating retreat & sunset ceremonies, *Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast & York*. Aug 19.

Duxford 95. Major air display with 30 to 40 aircraft ranging from Second World War to present day. Sept 10, 8am-5pm (flying from 2pm). £10, OAPs £7.50, students & children £5. *Imperial War Museum Duxford, nr Cambridge* (01223 835000).

1995: The Second Occupation Now. The German occupation reviewed from a distance of half a century. Oct 16-Jan, 1996. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm. £2.90, concessions £1.90. *Jersey Museum*.

Remembrance Sunday. Service & parade, with wreath-laying by the royal family & political leaders. Nov 12, 11am. *Cenotaph, Whitehall, SW1*.

Information hotline

VE-Day/VJ-Day events nationwide. *Southern Tourist Board, 40 Chamberlayne Rd, Eastleigh, Hants SO5 5JH* (for daily update 0891 88 1945—calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate times, otherwise 49p per minute at other times).

Details correct at time of going to press, but visitors are advised to check before making a special journey.

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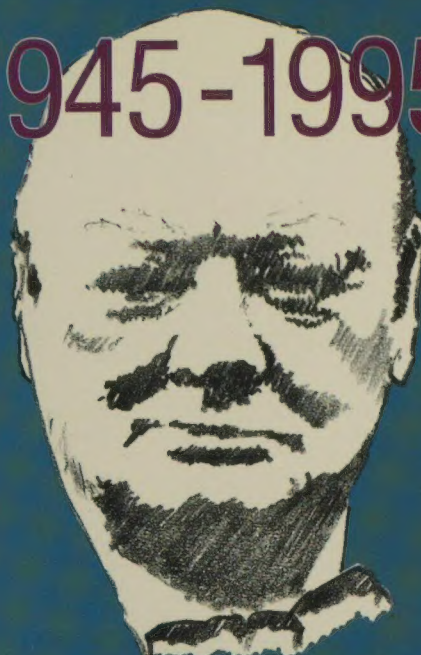
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1945-1995



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VE Day Celebrations outside Buckingham Palace, 8th May 1945 by Leila Faithfull, detail central panel.
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